

Enraged Society Matrons 'Protest' Spell Acquittal

Connecticut Governor Admits Wealthy Blue-Bloods Bring Pressure to 'Investigate' the Jury Verdict; Spell Still in Jail, Faces Threat by State

By Ernest Moore

(Daily Worker Staff Correspondent)

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Feb. 2.—The rich and socially prominent friends of Mrs. Eleanor Strubing today were out "to get" Joseph Spell in spite of the not-guilty verdict of a jury of six men and six women who weighed the evidence and rejected the "rape" charge of the society woman against her former chauffeur.



JOSEPH SPELL

Holding Spell In Jail Angers Local Negroes

By Eugene Franklin

(Special to the Daily Worker)

BRIDGEPORT, Feb. 2.—One of the first questions put to me as a newspaperman by persons I questioned on the Spell-Strubing case in this New England industrial town today was why the Negro butler was still being held in jail after having been acquitted by the verdict of the mixed jury last Friday night.

"What I can't understand is that a Negro youth, one of a group of three who talked to me beneath a big movie sign announcing the anti-Negro film, 'Gone With the Wind,' somewhere along the main street. 'Why are they still holding Spell in jail after they've said he isn't guilty?'"

One of the boys tried to explain to his companion that an old Connecticut law permitted the high sheriff to hold a prisoner 48 hours, "until they can find out if they can pin anything else on you."

"I never heard of such a law," the first youth declared. "And even if I did I think it's a bad law."

The other two agreed. They thought the jury's verdict was "fine" but felt that, after all, there hadn't been anything else the six men and six women could do, if they were honest.

"Listen," one of the boys said. "I've worked for people like this Mrs. Strubing, and as soon as I heard of this case I just knew what was coming."

He added that there wasn't a young fellow in service in all Bridgeport who perhaps could not tell a story from his own experience "about these rich people who don't have anything else to do but amuse themselves."

The youths suggested that if I wanted to get a variety of opinions I should go to the church around the corner, on Arch St. If I hurried I could get there before the services were let out.

The church on Arch St. was the Methodist Baptist, whose pastor is the Rev. F. W. Jacobs. A young man, an usher, seeing that I was a stranger, answered questions and invited me to sit until church was out. He suggested that I send my name up to the Rev. Mr. Jacobs and that perhaps it would be announced from the pulpit, I did.

The minister finished taking up a collection for helping defray the expense of removing from the World's Fair grounds to Virginia Union University the building which the Belgian government has given

(Continued on Page 6)

'Socialist' Mayor McLevy Welcomes 'Refugee' Royalty

(Special to the Daily Worker)

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Feb. 2.—Today's Bridgeport Sunday Post, which carries a front page account of the enraged protests of Philadelphia society women at the acquittal of Joseph Spell, also publishes an interesting photo of Bridgeport's "Socialist" mayor, Jasper McLevy.

"Socialist" McLevy is shown shaking hands with Archduke Otto of the Austrian House of Hapsburg and claimant to the defunct "throne" of that country. The picture shows McLevy welcoming Otto to the city. The Archduke said he stakes his hopes of getting his throne back in a British victory over Germany.

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Rank and File Brooklyn longshoremen rallied yesterday to demand action taken to arrest killers of Peter Panto, slain leader of the movement. Photo shows

officials of the Peter Pan Club. Left to right: Giacomo Di Paolo, educational director; Domenico Sicari, treasurer; Gennaro Sarno, president; Domenico Tamiro, secretary. —Daily Worker Photo

Carry on Panto's Work In Brooklyn

Longshore Club Meets To Press for Action From O'Dwyer

While delegates of Joseph Ryan, president of the International Longshoremen's Association, stood outside nearly 100 rank and file dock workers and friends took part in a Peter Panto Memorial meeting at 238 Columbia St. yesterday.

The rank and file longshoremen at the meeting demanded punishment of the killers of their leader, Peter Panto, whose body is believed to have been found in clay and quicklime on the banks of the Passaic River, near Lyndhurst, N. J. last Wednesday.

Ryan's goons yesterday didn't attempt any of the strong arm stuff that was used against previous meetings of the followers of the rank and file waterfront leader.

The meeting was called by the Peter Panto Educational Club last week after the finding of the body.

Olino Bardi, editor of the popular Italian newspaper, L'Unita del Popolo, said Panto had been martyred like Sacco and Vanzetti and urged the workers to the determined solidarity against the employers' gangster agents on the waterfront.

Waterfront workers at the meeting and thousands outside meanwhile are demanding the quick prosecution of the murders.

The Peter Panto Educational Club is demanding that District Attorney William O'Dwyer find out who paid for the murder.

This same question was asked in letters 18 inches high in a Brooklyn street sign last night.

The sign painted on each wall of the Montagu St. ramp, leading down to the docks, says in bold lines:

"WHO PAID FOR THE MURDER OF PETER PANTO?"

Four members of Murder, Inc., are being hunted as the actual slayers. Workers want O'Dwyer to catch the higher-ups, the paymasters.

They want O'Dwyer to investigate Panto's enemies among high officials of the International Longshoremen's Association.

Scientific tests will be continued this week to determine the identity of the body, believed to be Panto's, that was taken to the Kings County morgue from the banks of the Passaic River.

It was then that he was forced to admit that Mrs. Strubing's doctor, Francis G. Zeiler of White Plains, had admitted to him that an "agreement" existed between Mrs. Strubing and the man she accused of "raping" her.

This testimony, reluctantly given by the policeman, was decisive because it completely shattered the contention of "rape" and substantiated beyond a doubt the defense contention that a voluntary relationship existed between Mrs. Strubing and Spell.

The jury had deliberated the case a little more than 12½ hours when they came out with a request that this testimony be read to them by the court stenographer. After hearing it they retired for only seven minutes and came out with the unequivocal verdict of "not guilty."

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Phelp Dodge Strikers Win Main Demand

(Special to the Daily Worker)

ELIZABETH, N. J., Feb. 2.—A two-day walkout by 1,800 employees of the Phelps Dodge Copper Products Corporation here ended today when the strikers, led by a CIO union, won their demands for a labor board election.

The entire plant was closed down at 7 o'clock Friday morning when Local 441 of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers Union received a flat refusal, following negotiations with the company, to its request for a labor poll to determine the workers' choice between the CIO local and a company union with which the management had signed a "contract."

An agreement between the management, represented by Mr. Wylie Brown, company president, and the union, represented by Peter Beech and Neil Brant, union officials, was reached in the Phelps Dodge offices at 40 Wall St. Saturday and unanimously sanctioned by a mass meeting of the strikers held in the Polish National Home today near the plant in this city.

The union officials pointed out, lies in the fact that as soon as the CIO wins the NLRB poll, the company will not, as heretofore, be able to fall back upon an alibi that it already has a contract with a "union" and cannot deal with any other.

This condition also prevents the labor board from stalling upon the CIO local's request for a collective bargaining election. Union officials charged that the labor board had used the company's alleged contract with the company union as an excuse for delaying a poll. Commenting on this situation, Neil Brant, New Jersey regional director of the union, said yesterday:

"I consider the present trend of the NLRB, which honors all contracts, whether or not they had been collectively entered into, as dangerous."

The terms of the memorandum, which was read to the strikers at the meeting here today, called for a contract to be immediately negotiated between the CIO local and the management and to be held in escrow pending the outcome of the labor board election, and to become effective at once if the CIO local wins.

The management also agrees to

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Whelan Drug Spent \$281,000 Union Says

(Special to the Daily Worker)

Pickets of Local 1,119, Retail Drug Store Employees Union, CIO, yesterday continued to keep the entire chain of 52 Whelan drug stores shut down in this city, while a union spokesman countered a statement of Walter G. Baumhoger, president of the chain, in which he claimed that 31 of the stores "lost money in 1940."

The chain president's statement was answered by Benjamin L. Gudes, business manager of the local union, who pointed out that the chain had been able "to spend \$281,000 over and above operating expenses and wages during 1940, 80 per cent of which was spent on the operation of the stores, and none of which went to any of the employees."

Union officials stated that Whelan wage scales are from 15 to 20 per cent below the scales paid by independent store owners under contract with the union, in addition to working the employees 54 hours weekly.

The walkout took place after Local 1119 had offered to submit its wage demands to arbitration, but had the offer rejected by the company.

In addition to the shut-down of the Whelan drug stores, pickets were also posted outside 100 United Cigar Stores throughout the city, although it was understood the union had not officially called the cigar stores out on strike. The Whelan concern also owns the cigar chain.

The union officials pointed out, lies in the fact that as soon as the CIO wins the NLRB poll, the company will not, as heretofore, be able to fall back upon an alibi that it already has a contract with a "union" and cannot deal with any other.

This condition also prevents the labor board from stalling upon the CIO local's request for a collective bargaining election. Union officials charged that the labor board had used the company's alleged contract with the company union as an excuse for delaying a poll. Commenting on this situation, Neil Brant, New Jersey regional director of the union, said yesterday:

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British Raids Sweep Nazi Invasion Ports

(UP)

LONDON, Feb. 2.—British bombers and fighters today carried out "offensive sweeps" over the Dover Straits and occupied French territory, bombing and machine-gunning Nazi invasion ports and emplacements of long-range guns which have been shelling Kent.

An Air Ministry communiqué said that fighters and "a small force of bombers attacked the docks at Boulogne" and that "other attacks were made by single aircraft of the coastal command on enemy airdromes at Ostend and Berck."

The Air Ministry said one British plane was missing.

Lone German planes continued armed reconnaissance flights over Britain. Authoritative British quarters believed the reconnaissance flights were a prelude to renewed heavy round-the-clock bombing, possibly leading up to an invasion attempt.

"SECOND BATTLE ON" Recalling that such reconnaissance flights preceded the large scale air attacks in September, some quarters contended that the first phase of the "second battle of Britain" already is under way.

Newspapers devoted more space than at any time since last September to speculation on an invasion attempt and instructions to citizens on how to act if invasion comes.

Major Oliver Stewart, air correspondent for the conservative Sunday Observer, said that scattered daylight flights over Britain by single German planes preceded the air blitz of September and "they must be interpreted as a prelude to

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Green Attempts To Disrupt CIO Ford Campaign

Rush War Bill To House Floor Debate Today

Farical 'Hearings' To Be Repeated in Senate; Same 'Witnesses'

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—The war powers bill will be rushed to the floor of the House tomorrow in a move by the Administration to secure passage before the opposition of the people mounts still higher.

General debate is scheduled to continue till Thursday when the measure will be read for amendments.

The opposition to the bill was dramatized over the weekend by a powerful peace lobby consisting of 1,500 delegates of the American Peace Mobilization who met on the steps of the Capitol and demanded the defeat of the measure as well as a hearing for their representatives.

The hearings on the bill before the House Foreign Affairs Committee were abruptly cut short during the past week in order to bring the measure to the floor. Not a single real peoples' opponent of the bill was permitted to be heard.

SENATE TO REPEAT FARCE Meanwhile the farcical procedure adopted by the House Committee will be repeated as the Senate Foreign Relations Committee resumes hearings tomorrow on its companion measure.

The Senate Committee has invited practically the same hand-picked assortment of interventionists and appeasers to testify on the bill who appeared before the House Committee.

Norman Thomas, who appeared before the House Committee at its invitation and pretended to oppose the bill while endorsing aid to Britain

Soviet Latvians Press Forward Under Socialism

Trade Unions Now Have 267,000 Members; Play Important Role in Life of Nation; Overfill Quotas in Last 1940 Quarter

MOSCOW, Feb. 2 (ICN).—The young Soviet Republic of Latvia is passing through exceptional days in its development, recently declared J. Putnins, Chairman of the Central Council of Trade Unions of the Latvian SSR, in a press interview. The trade unions of Latvia now number over 267,000 workers and play an outstanding role in the socialist construction of the Republic, he reported.

Previously there were 116 numerically small and weak craft unions in Latvia. Such organizations of the trade union movement in Latvia was advantageous for the capitalists. In all these small organizations, key positions were occupied by "their" people, who defended everyone's interest but the working people.

At present 23 industrial trade unions have been organized: leather and footwear building, clothing, chemical, textile, railroad, etc.

Factory and office trade union committees have been elected in the enterprises and offices and department committees in the large departments. Subcommittees on wages, labor protection, etc. have been organized. Subcommittees on improving living conditions are helping in the transfer of working families to new apartments. Over a thousand large families have been moved from hovels to comfortable apartments previously occupied by the bourgeoisie.

OVERFILL QUOTAS

In all enterprises wage rates have been established with the participation of the factory and trade union committees. The trade union organizations attained certain successes in the sphere of socialist emulation. 1,688 collectives of workers participated in socialist emulation in honor of the elections to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

In nearly all enterprises the plan for the last quarter of 1940 was overfulfilled. During the recent election campaign, the trade union functionaries were to be found in the front ranks of the canvassers, propagandists and members of election committees.

During that period the trade unions organized courses and lectures for canvassers and propagandists, took patronage over the country, etc. The trade unions also supervised the social insurance fund. Social insurance councils were organized in the factories and in large offices. Over 15,000 social insurance stewards were elected. This year's budget of state and social amount to 122,000,000 rubles.

All workers and employees receive sick benefit and free medical aid. At present all aged working people are being registered. They will receive pensions from the social welfare fund.

Vichy Envoy To Talk with Hitler Aide

(Continued from Page 1)

The 84-year-old Marshal on Dec. 14 and temporarily held under arrest.

ARRIVE TODAY

The special train with only one private coach, held for three days at the Vichy station with steam up while Petain debated his momentous decision, arrived at the Gare de Lyon in Paris at 7 A. M. today and Darian will confer immediately with Hitler's personal envoy there, Otto Abetz.

There was speculation that the special train may bring back to Vichy the swarthy Laval, perhaps to be reinstated in a position of broad power as Hitler demands.

A staff officer accompanied Darian, Minister of Navy and No. 2 man in the Vichy regime, aboard the special car at 11:30 P. M. After the Germans, who have tightly sealed the frontier between Nazi-land and unoccupied France as a result of the crisis, issued a special visa permitting it to cross the boundary at Moulins.

Darian's trip, it was said, is expected definitely to settle one way or another the question of Laval's status which the Germans, with the backing of the Nazi-dominated Paris press, insist is the fundamental condition for resumption of French-German collaboration.

This collaboration has been in complete deadlock since Laval's ouster on Dec. 14.

HOPE CRISIS SOLVED

The aged Petain chose Darian for the task because it was the Admiral who conferred with Hitler at Beaulieu on Dec. 25, delivering to the Fuehrer a message from Petain setting forth France's desire for co-operation with the Reich.

At that time Hitler told Darian that the Vichy government should undertake no further cabinet reorganization pending delivery of a German note setting forth Hitler's demands in formal manner. That note is expected to be placed in Darian's hands today, for delivery to Petain.

British Raids Sweep Nazi Invasion Ports

(Continued from Page 1)

further large scale operations now. "They are likely to continue with intermittent lulls until the big air battles begin," he wrote.

Field Marshal Lord Milne, writing in the Sunday Chronicle, claimed "invasion" already had begun with an air attack "which may at any moment now bring you face to face with the enemy."

'BLUFF IT THROUGH'

He wrote that Nazi reconnaissance flights will be followed by a general air offensive aimed at industries, communications and morale, after which saboteurs dressed in civilian clothes or British army uniforms will be dropped by parachute.

He advised readers to prepare now for attacks on their homes and factories by hiding away emergency food supplies, finding shelters for children, the aged and sick and "above all, make up your mind what you will do when you are faced by German troops."

"A clear head and a good bluff will bring you through almost any crisis."

Major General J. F. C. Fuller, writing in the Sunday Pictorial, claimed that people could best serve the country by hoarding food sufficient to feed themselves for several weeks.

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USSR Honors Voroshilov On His Sixtieth Birthday

(Wireless to the Daily Worker)

MOSCOW, Feb. 2.—K. B. Voroshilov, assistant chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Soviet Union, chairman of the Council of Defense, and member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, will be honored throughout the USSR on Feb. 4, his sixtieth birthday.

(Wireless to the Daily Worker)

VOROSHILOVGRAD, Ukraine, Feb. 2.—Every resident of this city, which is closely connected with the life and revolutionary activities of Klementi Voroshilov, is actively engaged in preparations for the celebration of his sixtieth birthday on Feb. 4. Exhibitions associated with his life have been opened in the city's Clubs and the Theatre of the Young Spectator.

Celebrations will be held in all theatres, clubs, palaces of culture and in the huge locomotive plant.

The Theatre of the Russian Drama will present a special concert program dedicated to Voroshilov.

ARTISTS TRIBUTE

The city's artists have painted a number of pictures portraying Voroshilov reporting at the 18th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union; showing Voroshilov, Stalin and Parkhomenko on the Taurisyan front during the civil war, and others.

Historical places connected with Voroshilov are crowded to capacity, particularly the Voroshilov Museum of the Revolution. In January alone more than 20,000 persons visited the Museum.

A new branch of the Museum has now been opened in the building where the Lugansk Soviet of Workers' Deputies met in 1917. Numerous documents of the period when Voroshilov formed fighting squads in 1905 and 1906, and covering his life up to the formation of the Red Army, are on display.

The celebrations will be capped by a mass meeting in the Palace of Soviets on Feb. 4.

Blockade Reduces U. S. Food Exports

Fruit and Meat Hardest Hit; Report Imports Also Declined

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2 (UP).—The British blockade, and the consequent closing of the major European markets, caused United States food exports to drop from \$312,000,000 during 1939 to \$240,000,000 during 1940, the Commerce Department reported tonight.

Food imports declined from \$604,000,000 in 1939 to \$563,000,000. Exports of fruit and meat were the hardest hit, although the loss of meat markets was somewhat offset by the elimination of such imported items as canned Polish ham.

The domestic dairy and fish canning industries, on the other hand, showed gains during the year, since Holland and Norway could no longer supply these items.

Red Army School Proud Of Traditions

(Wireless to the Sunday Worker)

MOSCOW, Feb. 2.—As a contribution to the history of a striking quarter-century in the life of the Soviet Union, and, particularly, the annals of the Red Army, the Kirov Infantry School is now calling on its old veterans for written reminiscences, and has put on display a series of exhibits—photographs, paintings, and documents—presenting high points in the school's history.

These exhibits, now on view in the school rooms in Leningrad, recall vividly the 1919 battles against Yudenich, near Olonets; the following year's fighting against Wrangel; the services rendered in 1921 in the crushing of the anarchist-inspired Kronstadt revolt; the 600-mile ski raid in the rear of the Finnish whiteguards in 1922; the school's share in the defeat of the Japanese at Lake Hasan in 1938 and at Khalkhin-Gol in 1939; and, again, the 1939-40 campaigns which, for the second time in less than a score of years, repulsed the provocations of the Finnish whiteguards.

In October 1919 during Yudenich's second offensive on Petrograd, fierce battles were waged against the enemy at Gatchina, Bibelsky and a number of other points.

In 1921 two companies of what was then the Petrograd Infantry School took part in crushing the Kronstadt revolt. The student company particularly distinguished itself in this operation by skillful and bold ski reconnoitering at the approaches to the ports, which ensured the success of the attack.

The heroic fighters were led into attack by Voroshilov, a delegate to the Tenth Party Congress then in session.

In May, 1921, the Finnish school, after receiving reinforcements, was reorganized into an international military school. In January, 1922, at the time of the Finnish white-guard adventure in Karelia, a detachment of students, headed by the famous hero Toivo Antikainen, carried out a daring 600-mile raid into the rear of the Finnish Whiteguards.

For this brilliant operation, which laid the basis for a complete rout of the Finnish Whiteguards, the international military school was awarded the order of the Red Banner.

The students are proud of the school's glorious fighting traditions, and of the many heroes of the Soviet Union reared in the school's class rooms. Hitherto the school has had no written history. Now, however, the school administration has asked Antikainen and Major General Antila, former commander of a unit in Toivo Antikainen's student detachment, to send in their reminiscences as a start in preparing an authentic record.

Japanese Claim Capture of Siancheng City

SHANGHAI, Feb. 2 (UP).—Japanese columns mopping up Chinese forces in Honan province captured the fortified city of Siancheng, 50 miles southeast of Yen Cheng on the Peiping-Hankow railway, today, the Japanese Domei news agency reported.

Siancheng is the birthplace of the late Chinese statesman Yuan Shih-kai, Domei said.



USSR Honors Voroshilov On His Sixtieth Birthday

Klementi Voroshilov, assistant chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Soviet Union, chairman of the Council of Defense and member of the Political Bureau of the USSR on his 60th birthday. Photo above at left is Voroshilov. Beside it is reproduction of painting of Voroshilov with Stalin. Below painting is photo of Voroshilov conferring with aides during Red Army maneuvers.

German Planes in Libya Sink 4 Ships, Bomb Ports

Italians Claim Victories in Albania and 'Severe Losses' for Greeks; Say Armored Units Repulse British in East Libya

ROME, Feb. 2 (UP).—Formations of German bombers, thrown into action in North Africa in an effort to stem the British drive across Libya, have sunk four British steamers and heavily bombed the defenses and ports of Sollum and Bardia, according to today's fascist war communiqué.

An Italian submarine, siding Germany's U-boat war in the Atlantic against shipments of war supplies from America to Britain, was said to have sunk three ships totaling about 15,000 tons in a torpedo attack on a convoy of four British steamers.

The communiqué told of Italian victories on the Albanian front where the Greeks were said to have "suffered severe losses" and to have fled from besieged positions, and reported "fierce fighting" between Agordat and Barentu where the British have invaded Italian Eritrea in East Africa.

The British Middle East command at Cairo Sunday announced the capture of Agordat along with "many hundreds of prisoners," guns and mechanized transports. The capture of Biacundi, south of Agordat, also was announced by the British.

Today's official report of the German bombing of Sollum and Bardia, captured by the British army of the Nile in its drive across northern Libya toward the key Italian base of Benghazi, followed a high command claim that reinforced Italian armored units had repulsed the British in Eastern Libya.

Sollum and Bardia, close to the Libyan-Egyptian frontier, have become important supply bases for the British forces under Gen. Sir Archibald Wavell since their fall to the British offensive.

The German bombing planes were presumed to have operated from their bases at Catania and other airbases in Sicily.

On the Libyan land front, it was in the Atlantic, commanded by commander Primo Longobardo, attacked four English steamers, severely scorched and torpedoed and sunk three of them totaling roughly 15,000 tons," the communiqué continued.

The high command in its Saturday communiqué had reported the sinking of a 10,000-ton enemy ship, traveling in convoy in the Aegean Sea, by Italian torpedo boats.

On the Libyan land front, it was stated today, there was no action "worthy of mention" although Italian planes bombed British mechanized forces and two British Hurricane fighters were shot down in air battles while British planes raided our air bases with damages, but no dead or wounded.

"In East Africa during Saturday fierce fighting occurred on the north (Eritrean) front between Agordat and Barentu in the western plains of Eritrea," it was stated by the high command.

"Our air force contributed, without respite, to the battle bombing and machine-gunning enemy positions and columns and destroying numerous enemy auto trucks. Our chasers brought down one enemy plane of the Hurricane type."

Receive Minister

ROME, Feb. 2 (UP).—Lo Chen-Pang, new Minister of Manchukuo, presented his credentials to King Victor Emmanuel today.

Internal Uncertainty Made Ethiopia Vulnerable to Britain

Red Army Expert Analyses War in Africa—Mussolini Unable to Depend on Native Troops, Declares Col. Popov

(Wireless to the Daily Worker)

MOSCOW, Feb. 2.—Ethiopia and its internal political situation is one of the major factors determining the vulnerability of the Italian colonial empire, writes Colonel Popov today in a review of recent military operations in north-east Africa published in Red Star, organ of the Red Army.

It was this factor, coupled with the riskiness of depending largely on native troops, writes Colonel Popov, which rendered the Italians incapable of inflicting a decisive defeat on the British armies in August and September, 1940.

Colonel Popov's full review follows:

"The position of Ethiopia in the event of a military clash between Italy and Britain always constituted the most serious problem for the Italian government."

"The vulnerability of the Italian colonial empire was determined not only by the isolated character of its East African possessions, but to a considerable degree also by the internal situation in recently-conquered Ethiopia."

"By the autumn of 1939 the Italians were compelled to increase their armed forces in East Africa, but the reinforcements that were hurriedly sent from Italy consisted merely of technical troops and the aircraft necessary for waging a war against a European enemy."

"It was intended to develop the Italian East Africa army by the formation of native troops, but with Italian units as its main corps. This decision apparently was dictated also by strategic considerations, mainly an unwillingness to risk the loss of a big Italian army in East Africa cut off from Italy."

INTERNAL UNCERTAINTY

"It was the uncertainty in the internal situation and the uncertainty of their own possibilities that led to a situation in which the Italian command was unable to make use of its opportunities to inflict a decisive defeat on the British in August and September of 1940."

"In East Africa the Italian command is waging war with native troops reinforced by Italian technical units. In the Somali and Eritrean operations, the Italians used even Ethiopian irregulars."

"Yet it is very risky for the Italians to depend on the loyalty of native Ethiopians. Therefore their main native army is based on natives of Somali and Eritrean tribes who for half a century have served as the chief recruiting grounds for Italian native units."

"The inner political situation caused much apprehension among the Italians. Even before the war the Italian authorities adopted a policy of speedy appeasement of the country. They spared no money in their efforts to persuade guerrilla leaders to lay down their arms."

'INNER FRONT'

"The British from the beginning counted on their success in establishing an 'inner front' in Ethiopia at the right moment. This would considerably facilitate their task of routing the East African Italian army."

"And so came the moment when the Negus was declared 'Britain's ally.' It is not only a question of the desire of the Ethiopian tribes to renew in this new situation their struggle against the Italians, but it is also a question of whether Haile Selassie will succeed in overcoming the feudal discord existing in the country."

"The British offensive in Eritrea and on other fronts of Italian 'East Africa' came as no surprise. The situation which had developed by January indicated that the next blow would follow in Ethiopia."

"Having liquidated one of the Ethiopian fronts by occupying

British Somaliland, the Italian command now meets the enemy on two fronts: the western and southern Sudan. The main British forces were concentrated in western Sudan. The main blow of the British Sudan army, with its powerful mechanized units, is being aimed in the direction of Kassala Asmara.

"This line of direction is perhaps the only one which permits the development of a big operation and which simultaneously leads to Asmara Massau, a region of great importance to the Italians. Conditions favorable to the use of mechanized units will determine to a considerable degree both the successful advance of the British and Italian retreat to Agordat."

"Further in the mountains, however, the offensive of British troops may meet with more stubborn resistance."

"In the direction of Gedaref, Callabat Gondar, relatively small forces are in operation. Here begins what is known in British communications as the 'Ethiopian front'. Here, apparently, operations will depend mainly on Ethiopian troops."

"The significance of moving in this direction lies in the fact that it leads to the region of Lake Tana, which is in the throes of guerrilla warfare, and constitutes the shortest route to Addis Ababa."

"Several days following the British invasion of Eritrea there was a notable increase of British activity on the Kenya frontier. But the vast and almost arid expanses of north and central Kenya offer tremendous obstacles to deploying large forces, which must be based on the Mombasa-Nairobi-Port Florence railway."

"The significance of this front should not, however, be underestimated. It is not only a question of dividing the forces of the Italians. The southern and southwestern provinces of Ethiopia were the seat of war, which continued. But it was officially ended. Despite the loss of Ethiopia's capital, Ethiopian military leaders did not lay down their arms, but continued the struggle for nearly two years. It is not for nothing that the Italians have, since the beginning of the war, so striven to remove the front line further south."

"The British offensive is being waged on a wide front which, together with the menace of the concentrated blow indicated, places the Italian command in a difficult position."

"The British, apparently, are setting themselves the aim of routing the East African Italian army. But the energetic operations during the second half of the summer by the isolated Italian army, which maintains communications with Italy only by air, and also the existence of native troops possessing splendid fighting qualities, give grounds for presuming that it will not be easy to overcome this army."

U. S. Army to Enroll 5,000 in Philippines

MANILA, Feb. 2 (UP).—U. S. army authorities announced today that 5,000 Philippine army reservists will be enrolled for a year's training in the U. S. army's "native branch" in the Philippines south.

Authorization of the enrollment has been received from President Roosevelt. The trainees will be selected from 120,000 Philippine army reservists who already have received six months training as conscripts of the Commonwealth army. They will be hand-picked in order to obtain "the cream of the native forces."

The enrollment will bring total strength of the U. S. army in the islands to about 15,000 men including 5,000 regulars and 5,000 regular members of the Scouts.

Latvia Explains Migration Is Voluntary

(By Wireless to the Daily Worker)

RIGA, Latvia, Feb. 2.—The Council of People's Commissars of the Socialist Soviet Republic of Latvia announced today, in connection with a recent agreement with the government of Germany on the migration of German citizens and persons of German nationality from Latvia to Germany, that "only persons who state their desire to migrate are subject to migration. The migration is voluntary and no coercion, either in a direct or indirect form, is permitted."



Chess Champions meet all comers in Moscow as 12th annual contests are held in great Hall of the Conservatory. Photo shows young fans following the games from the gallery.

Convicted of anti-Semitic speeches at Nazi Camp Nordland, N. J. Wilhelm Kunze and his aides are shown in court as appeal of sentences were made.

Detroit Unions Raise Protests Against HR 1776

Minnesota Peoples Peace Conference Will Send Caravan to New York Convention April 6—Student Opinion Opposes Involvement

(Special to the Daily Worker)
DETROIT, Feb. 2.—Opposition to the President's war bill HR 1776 is unanimous in the labor movement here as scores of unions and other organizations formally protest its passage without a dissenting voice raised in favor of the measure. Growing rapidly is a Trade Union Committee of the American Peace Mobilization, headed by Joseph Cartwright of Local 155 of the United Auto Workers Union, CIO. "We must get every trade union and every trade union member active in this nation-wide campaign to get America out of the war and to keep it out," said Cartwright today.

The results are based on a sampling of opinion of 460 representative students. The survey also showed that 56.6 per cent of those polled believed that this country would become involved and 67.3 per cent believe that "short of war" aid to Britain will lead to involvement. Commenting editorially on the results of the survey, the student paper said: "Roosevelt today offers 'freedom—everywhere in the world, and at home you hear him and ponders the fact that those who are most vehemently calling for entrance into the war and preservation of 'freedom' ABROAD are those who are most vehement in demanding curtailment of freedom of speech and freedom of thought; freedom to strike and freedom to work, right here at home."

Typical of the sentiment here are the following statements of trade union leaders: Pat Quinn, president of Dodge Local 3 of the UAW with 20,000 members: "The lend-lease bill without any question is going to lead this country into the bloody slaughter. In plain words it means war and we, the workers, want no part of it."

Tony Zimba, plant chairman of the UAW in the Rindler Mason plant: "My plant membership meeting recently passed unanimously a motion to demand that all Michigan representatives in Congress return the spirit of 1776 to the nation by defeating the misnamed HR 1776 that is purposely aimed at getting America deeper into the war."

Kurt Murdoch, president of Packard Local 190, UAW: "Without question the pending lend-lease bill in Congress is a threat to American democracy. The CIO should throw every ounce of its power against the passage of this bill."

Darrell D. Smith, director of Labor Non-Partisan League of Michigan: "The lend-lease bill is vicious. It is a dangerous departure from the principle of popular self-rule when the authority to waste American lives is granted to any man."

Trene Young, UAW leader in the General Motors Tenth Plant: "Amongst the women auto workers there is unanimous opposition to this lend-lease bill which is seeking against peace. We are not being beguiled by the fair promises of certain women columnists that we 'have to sacrifice' and that we will have plenty of work when our men folk get drafted."

Lebron Simmons, chairman of the Detroit chapter of the National Negro Congress and vice-president of the AFL-Separate Workers Union: "Great pressure is being exerted on the Negro people to give support to this lend-lease bill, but the Detroit Negro people, strong supporters always of peace, are everywhere in opposition to this bill that pushes America over that fateful brink into war."

Tracy Doll, president of the Wayne County Industrial Union Council: "I was in favor of President Roosevelt, but I believe in America and democracy, and if the lend-lease bill is passed, we will lose democracy and America. This bill will give to America as much dictatorship as ever existed in Germany."

MINNESOTA PARLEY TO EXTEND DRIVE

(Special to the Daily Worker)
ST. PAUL, Minn., Feb. 2.—Unanimous condemnation of the war powers bill HR 1776 was voted here yesterday by more than 200 delegates to the Minnesota People's Conference, which elected a Continuation Committee of 15 to extend the movement against war and to organize a mass caravan to the People's Peace Convention in New York City on April 6.

Following by one day the convention of the state Farmer-Labor Party, which also condemned the bill, the peace conference was attended by many Farmer-Labor delegates, as well as representatives from AFL and CIO unions, the Farmers Union and fraternal organizations.

A five-point program to "get out and keep out of the imperialist war" was adopted and includes a series of local peace rallies to be held on Washington's birthday.

Morris Watson, of the New York American Labor Party, delivered the keynote address and said: "This is not a case of choosing between evils. There is only one evil, imperialism, which breeds fascism."

Elmer Benson, newly-elected chairman of the Farmer-Labor Association, was given an ovation when he pledged the full support of his party to the peace program. Former Congressman John T. Bernard called for the collaboration of all neutral powers and people's movements as the best defense of America.

Rev. Owen A. Knox, chairman of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, was repeatedly cheered.

The conference resolved to oppose "unprovoked aid to Britain designed to aid for imperialists," and adopted resolutions in support of the International Harvester strikers in Chicago and a local restaurant workers' strike.

STUDENT OPINION OPPOSES INVOLVEMENT

(Special to the Daily Worker)
MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 2.—Student opinion here is 80 per cent against

United States involvement in war, according to a survey conducted by the Minnesota Daily, student publication of the University of Minnesota.

The results are based on a sampling of opinion of 460 representative students. The survey also showed that 56.6 per cent of those polled believed that this country would become involved and 67.3 per cent believe that "short of war" aid to Britain will lead to involvement.

Commenting editorially on the results of the survey, the student paper said: "Roosevelt today offers 'freedom—everywhere in the world, and at home you hear him and ponders the fact that those who are most vehemently calling for entrance into the war and preservation of 'freedom' ABROAD are those who are most vehement in demanding curtailment of freedom of speech and freedom of thought; freedom to strike and freedom to work, right here at home."

CIO OFFICE WORKERS ATTACK HR 1776

Charging that HR 1776 represents "the abdication of Congressional control over foreign policy, and removal from the people their fundamental right to govern themselves," Lewis Merrill, president of the United Office and Professional Workers of America, expressed his firm opposition to the bill in a letter made public today.

Merrill warned that passage of this "pure and simple war measure" would check the advances of the labor movement. "With the ostensible motive of combatting foreign fascism," he declared in his letter sent to every member of the Senate and the House of Representatives, "it would deliver the American people into the hands of our own domestic fascists who day by day are adding to their influence in the government."

His opinion, Merrill said, was "fortified by the almost unanimous agreement among members of the UOPWA general executive board that this bill should be opposed" and by the decision of the UOPWA convention in September 1940 which "took an affirmative, unequivocal and positive stand for peace and against involvement in war."

A copy of the letter was also addressed by Merrill to each local union affiliated with the UOPWA.

GARMENT WORKERS TO HEAR MARGARONTO

Garment workers will protest the lend-lease bill Wednesday at 5:30 P.M. in a mass meeting at Hotel Diplomat, 108 W. 43rd St., with Congressman Vito Marcantonio and Rabbi Benjamin Plotnick as leading speakers.

The meeting will be a reply of the progressive garment workers to the war-mongering top officials of the International Ladies Garment Workers who support the dictatorship bill.

The meeting is under the auspices of the Needle Trades Council for Peace and Democracy. A special membership meeting of the Council will be held Monday at Hotel York to hear a report of its delegates to the Washington peace lobby last Saturday. The meeting will consider further activities to extend its fight for peace among the garment workers.

13,000 TICKETS SOLD FOR BURLIN RALLY

The Brooklyn Organizing Committee of the American Peace Mobilization announced that 13,000 tickets for the Mass Rally in Defense of Trade Union Rights and Peace to be held at the Academy of Music on Thurs., Feb. 6, have already been distributed.

A key point of the meeting will be the analysis by Dr. Bella V. Dodd, legislative representative of Local 5 of the Teachers Union, of the Rapp-Coudert committee and its drive upon union membership lists.

Featured speakers include Joseph Corman, president of the National Maritime Union, and Michael Quill, president of the Transport Workers Union.

Other speakers include: Joseph Dermody, district representative, United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America; Ewart Guinier, vice president, N. Y. District State, County and Municipal Workers of America; Irving Schnurman, president of District Council 9, Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers; and C. H. Vantyne, trade union director of AFM.

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 2.—Condemnation of the war powers bill of President Roosevelt and opposition to the "all-out aid to Britain" resolution adopted by the California State Assembly was voted here this week by the California Legion of Mothers of America.



Teamwork Wins for tuna fishermen on the West Coast. Photo shows one of the "sea-farmers" most of whom on the coast are organized in CIO union, landing a fish. It's perilous work because men fish on "ladders" slung over the side of the boat.

Pittsburgh Red-Baiting Priest Okays Company Discharge of Union Leader

New Trials Won In Baltimore Petition Cases

Other Motions Denied By Judge in C. P. Election Cases

(Special to the Daily Worker)

BALTIMORE, Feb. 2.—Three collectors of signatures to Communist Party petitions who were found guilty of perjury last December were granted motions for new trials yesterday by the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City. The motions were granted to Mrs. Minnie Stambler, Benjamin Davis and Paul Jarvis.

The motion of Sophie Kaplan was denied with Judge Odumne writing a dissenting opinion. Motions for Mrs. Dorothy Rose Blumberg and Richard Browne have been previously refused Judge Dickerson will probably pronounce sentence on Sophie Kaplan, Mrs. Blumberg and Brown this week.

Symposium on "Soviet Power" Here Tonight

Dr. Walter Rautenstrauch will be the main speaker at a symposium on "The Soviet Power" by the Dean of Canterbury tonight at the Carnegie Chamber Music Hall, 154 West 37 Street 8:30 P. M. under the auspices of the American Committee for Friendship with the Soviet Union.

Rev. Ver Lynn Spingue, Muriel Draper, noted author and lecturer, Morris Watson, Vice President of the American Newspaper Guild and Professor Charles Kuntz, Agronomist and sociologist will also speak. Reserved seats range from 40 cents to 83 cents.

Alliance Hits Threat to Half Million on WPA

President Roosevelt's request for a deficiency appropriation of only \$375,000,000 to continue WPA until the end of the present fiscal year, June 30, 1941, will cause the dismissal of 500,000 WPA workers by June, the Workers Alliance announced today.

This slash was anticipated by the President's budget speech of January 8, when he made his proposal for WPA of only \$955,000,000 for 1941-42, a one-third cut in the WPA rolls.

Despite the administration's statement of re-employment in defense industries, Alliance leaders pointed out the fact that in New York City less than 500 WPA workers in the month of December received private jobs and that according to Mayor LaGuardia there are today 66,000 employable New York workers on relief.

HUDSON URGES UNIONISTS TO STUDY 'THE SOVIET POWER'

By Roy Hudson

The truth will make you free—and the Dean of Canterbury's book presents the truth about the Soviet Union in such a popular form that it is a mighty weapon for dispelling confusion or hostility where it has been incited. That's why the entire American press instituted a boycott of silence against this book—but this boycott has already been smashed because the American people want the truth—especially about the Soviet Union.

The first response, largely of a spontaneous nature, by large sections of workers and people to the publication of this book in a 25 cent edition has been magnificent. No one now can remain satisfied

(Special to the Daily Worker)

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Feb. 2.—Declaring it to be "unjust, outrageous and dishonest," Alice Burkhardt today scored the decision of Father Charles Owen Rice in upholding her discharge after she had been elected shop steward at the Independent Towel Supply of this city. Father Rice was the sole arbitrator in the case.

In a statement issued today, Miss Burkhardt said that she was going to fight back at Father Rice and the employer and that she would appeal her discharge to the Labor Board and would also ask prominent clergymen and labor leaders to constitute a jury to probe the "raw decision."

"He (Father Rice) has interfered with the activities of many labor unions in the city encouraging religious prejudice and discord among the union membership. His latest action in my case is so obviously raw that no decent fair minded American citizen can accept it. I for one am going to fight back and ask for the support of the laundry workers and other people," the statement declared.

RED-BAITER

Father Rice, who has become prominent as a red-baiting "friend of labor" in recent years, summarily upheld the company's firing of Miss Burkhardt. His opinion declared that she "had a proven record as a trouble maker in the plant," accused her of holding shop meetings on company premises and of instigating "slow downs."

Elected shop steward in the place where she worked for the past three and a half years, Miss Burkhardt was ordered removed from the post by local union officials against whom she led a rank and file movement two years ago. She convened a shop meeting to present them with the letter from the union officials. The shop voted by a large majority to reject the letter. Half an hour later, she was fired by the company.

The priest, who has no church, but runs a "House of Hospitality" at which transients can get food and lodging in return for work done, recently achieved a good deal of publicity when he sought to intervene with red baiting statements in the local elections at Westinghouse Electric and Aluminum Co. of America plants near here.

The progressives who were attacked nevertheless managed to gain a substantial victory in both elections.

Pledged of intensified support for the Hearst unit of the Chicago Newspaper Guild in its current fight against the Herald-American are mounting daily as CIO unions from coast to coast join in the battle against the notorious labor-baiting publisher.

Reports from CIO headquarters indicate that many international unions already have placed all Hearst publications on their unfair list.

Ohio Jobless To See Mayor On Relief Cuts

Alliance Delegation to Confer Over Threat To Unemployed

(Special to the Daily Worker)

CLEVELAND, Feb. 2.—Protests coming in from all over the city have forced Mayor Edward R. Blythin to grant the Cuyahoga County Alliance a hearing on his proposed three million dollar relief slash. It was announced by Lowell Watson, Workers Alliance head. The hearing will be held in a conference between the Mayor and a delegation of 100 unemployed this Wednesday at 2:30 P.M. in City Hall.

The decision came after Mayor Blythin received hundreds of postal cards of protest. Watson announced that the Alliance demands will call for:

1. Appropriation to increase the food budget 25 per cent.
2. Restore all unemployed single people to relief rolls.
3. Open up the clothing distribution center, which has been closed, and supply adequate warm clothing for all people on relief.
4. Separate hearings on the relief section of the proposed city budget for 1941.

WIDE SUFFERING

Mayor Blythin's proposed cut comes at a time of extreme suffering among Cleveland's unemployed. The cost of living is rising as a result of Roosevelt's war economy. War orders in Cleveland have failed to take up any slack in the unemployed figures, because more people have been out of WPA than have been hired in industry. Blythin's relief cut, if it should go through, would throw Cleveland into a worse crisis than the one in 1939.

The Worker's Alliance has sent resolutions to the CIO and AFL bodies here calling for support in the fight for jobs and relief. Last week the officials of the Cleveland Industrial Union Council, "The Union Leader" warned the labor movement that the continuing unemployment in Cleveland is a threat to the employed workers here.

Buffalo CIO Elects Delegate To Town Meeting

(Special to the Daily Worker)
BUFFALO, Feb. 2.—The Erie County Industrial Council of the CIO at their latest meeting elected a delegate to the Town Meeting of Youth in Washington next weekend.

A delegation of about ten youth representing unions, churches, Negro organizations, and community centers will go to Washington to join in the nation-wide Town Meeting.

Cleveland CIO-AFL Halt Council Anti-Labor Bill

Block City Move to Put Strike-Breaking Fences Around Plants

(Special to the Daily Worker)

CLEVELAND, Feb. 2.—The CIO and AFL united forces here to smash attempts by the Roosevelt government and big business to put over strike-breaking, anti-union legislation, masquerading as an anti-sabotage bill, in the City Council Committee on Improvements.

They were successful in heading off this bill which called for fencing off streets around war industries, after they had to rally their forces at last minute notice.

After much debate at the committee hearing, the Council members voted to not pass the general legislation in the bill and to consider the requests of two war firms, Thompson Products Co. and Baker-Rauland Co., for fences around their plants, at their next meeting two weeks from now. This move stopped the legislation from reaching the floor of Council.

Only last Monday did the public receive notice of this bill being prepared. Four days later it was announced that the bill was to be presented to the committee. The CIO and AFL received last minute notice of the hearing.

The bill was introduced to the committee by Safety Director Elliot Ness, number one labor biter, who became notorious to union men for his strike breaking activities.

Lt. Commander W. S. Bacon in speaking for the bill admitted "Our country is about as close to war as it ever has been without actually being in war."

W. O. Walker, Negro councilman caused W. R. Rogers, plant employment head, much embarrassment when he asked him if it weren't true that Thompson Products did not employ Negroes.

Opponents of the bill were A. E. Stevenson, Secretary of the CIO Cleveland Industrial Union Council; William Finegan, president of the AFL Cleveland Federation of Labor; Richard E. Reisinger, regional director of the UAW-CIO, Elmer O. Fehlbauer, vice-president of the Ohio CIO; Paul Milley, Regional Director of the UAW-CIO and R. L. Johnson of Painter's Union, AFL.

Stevenson spoke first against the bill, declaring "our organization is opposed to sabotage and espionage not only of industry but of our democracy. This legislation involves sabotage of democracy."

WISCONSIN LABOR CALLS CONFERENCE

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Feb. 2.—The Wisconsin State Conference on Social Legislation is calling upon all labor, farm, fraternal, religious, progressive, and civic organizations to send delegates to its Fourth Annual Conference at Madison, Park Hotel, Feb. 22 and 23. The call states that "the conference will provide an opportunity for discussion.

information, and education on legislation, and the planning of a legislative program that will represent the needs of the people of Wisconsin. . . . peace of the American people, aid to the farmers, the defense and improvement of the economic and social gains won by labor, the aged, youth, and the unemployed" are cited as the key issues.

WESTERN PENNA. CONFERENCES CALLED

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Feb. 2.—Labor union sponsored legislative conferences are now in preparation in a number of congressional districts in Western Pennsylvania. Their purposes are to spike proposed Federal and State reactionary legislation and to maintain legislative gains. Two conferences have been announced by CIO bodies. Latest announcement comes from the Erie Industrial Union Council which is calling on all local unions, fraternal and civic bodies together Feb. 22 in Erie.

The Allegheny-Kiski Valley and the Tarentum District Industrial Union Councils announced a Labor Legislative Conference to be held on February 9 at Tarentum.

Two meetings have already been held of a Shenango Valley Legislative Conference which includes delegates from CIO and AFL unions and two Railroad Brotherhoods.

LABOR LEADERS SHUN "INVITATION"

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 2.—John A. Phillips, president and Lester Thomas secretary of the Pennsylvania Industrial Union Council, in a letter to Lewis G. Hines, State Secretary of Labor and Industry today declined to join Hines in an attempt to set up machinery to hamstring labor in this state. Phillips and Thomas declared that they believed that there was

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Attention is called to the "legislation now before Congress and the state legislature that would place our country on a complete war basis, remove the guarantees of the Bill of Rights, outlaw labor's right to strike and to organize, militarize the youth, and increase the heavy burden of taxation on the common people."

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Penna., Wisc. Labor to Hold Legislative Conferences

sufficient machinery set up to "settle any dispute that may arise in the defense industries."

LEGISLATIVE PARLEY HERE FEB. 14-15

More than 1,000 delegates and observers from several organizations in New York are expected to be present at the New York Conference on Legislation for Democracy here Feb. 14 and 15. Rosalie Manning, president of the New York Conference for Inalienable Rights, announced yesterday.

Edwin S. Smith, member of the National Labor Relations Board; Solicitor General Henry Epstein; Lee Pressman, General Counsel to the CIO will be the principal speakers at the opening session of the Conference. The opening session, which will be open to the public, will be held at Mecca Temple, 125 W. 55th St., Friday evening, Feb. 14, at 8 P. M.

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From a Missouri 'Oakie'

Sharecroppers Live in Barrel Stave Shacks

Sharecropper Camp, Garvell, Mo.
Workers Correspondence Department:

I am a sharecropper down here in the south and I want to tell the people up north about the conditions we work under. At present we are living on ninety acres of land which was donated by the Committee for Rehabilitation of Sharecroppers. Although the land is hilly and rocky, we did succeed in raising a little garden crop early this summer. We hope to get some vegetables from this planting, but we need other food to go along with it so as to make a half decent meal.

The relief people give us some surplus food stuffs but no cash to buy our own food or clothes that we need.

SHACKS FOR HOMES

The housing condition here is bad, very bad. We have a few long houses, but we reside mostly

in shacks made of barrel and staves. We don't have any floors in these shacks, because we don't have any money to buy the lumber with. We have to eat, sleep and cook in the same room so you can just imagine how comfortable it is. We sure are in a bad way here.

I am not writing this letter for sympathy, but I just want the people know about how bad our conditions are and I hope the Workers Correspondence will spread this message about the sharecroppers. We all thank you very much for doing this.

A SHARECROPPER.



Texas Oil Field Men See Need for Militant Union

Monahans, Texas.

Workers Correspondence Department:

I notice that you asked for Workers Correspondence for the Daily Worker, so I am enclosing a short letter on conditions in the oil fields. I am an oil field worker, and belong to the CIO. When I get work, I am a driller.

Out of the hundreds of thousands of workers in field operations, there are about 18,000 organized. The organization itself is at the present time going down hill at a pretty rapid pace.

The reasons for this condition of the Oil Workers International lie mainly in the reactionary policies of the past leadership; even attempts of various locals to start organizing campaigns, on a small scale have met with no cooperation from the leadership. If not actual opposition.

These policies have resulted in almost complete isolation of the organized worker from the unorganized, and in the coming to the front in union affairs of reactionary elements in a good many locals. Also the good old witch-hunt has been used as a basis for reactionary activity.

THE CURE

There is but one cure for this condition, and that is the uniting of all progressive forces in the O.W.I. for aggressive action regardless of the amount of effort involved.

Conditions in the oil fields for organization seem to be constantly improving; of course the 40-hour-week to which some of



the contractors try to adhere, for the purpose of saving money on the overtime of course, is putting the average wage of many of these workers far below what it costs them to live. The most of them, even on the better jobs, realize they have no security.

The average worker knows that something is seriously wrong, that the industry is being artificially needed by the so-called defense program, and he is looking toward a crash when it ends. Due to the fast moving historical events of today, an organizational program, to be successful, must be on a high political level, or rather a political educational program must be combined with an organizational program for the latter to be successful.

The oil field worker is asking what is wrong, where is he going to be in the few years and where is his place going to be in this changing world?

—AN OIL WORKER.

Halt Ships, Taxi Drivers Hit in Pocket

Bronx, N. Y.

Workers Correspondence Dept.:

Because of adequate public transportation facilities and the economic dislocation of large sections of New York's millions, the taxi industry's revenue is low. But the war has hurt even more. The North River Piers, formerly providing thousands of hackies with a spot to work, are closed down. There are no more ship sailings or arrivals. Those hackies who were known as "water rats" are now forced to ply their trade elsewhere, causing long lines at hotels or go out sculling the streets for a call.

The people's spending power is curtailed by unemployment, low wages, the high cost of living and the uncertainty of the present situation. Any student of economics will tell you that when a country's economy is geared for war production, the home consumption industries suffer in proportion to the uneven balance causes a deeper depression.

Bearing these facts in mind taxi drivers would do well to stay in the front ranks of those forces opposed to war.

It is interesting to note that those super-patriots who seek to drag us into Europe's mess never use their real slogan—"Profits for the Few—Suffering for the Many."

D. V.

More Food, Less Munitions, Says Dairy Farmer

Buffalo, N. Y.

Workers Correspondence Dept.:

The Extension Service and the Farm Bureau and other agencies are trying to keep the farmers quiet by saying that food-stuffs like pork, beef, eggs, wheat, apples, cabbage cannot be exported because of the war.

May we farmers ask these gentlemen if this is true? Why are the products of DuPont, General Motors, Bethlehem Steel and others, which are used to arm belligerent powers, allowed to be exported in increasing quantities every day?

These exports are making billions of dollars in profits, while the farmers' products are rotting and cannot be sold.

Consumers in cities like Niagara Falls are paying 15 cents a quart for milk, but the farmer gets only four cents.

Food for the people instead of ammunition for war, we farmers say

P. E.

Behind Ford's Ads in the Newspapers

Detroit, Mich.

Workers Correspondence Dept.:

This is the story of a Ford worker, who worked for Ford for ten years. His job was lifting 50 pounds steel blocks from the conveyor. One day two blocks fell off the line and struck his wrist. The Ford Company doctor put him on another job with a steel brace. Then he went to the union doctor who found that the bones had not been reunited.

The Ford doctor at a hearing for compensation on the case said that the bones had healed up alright and that the worker was in good condition and could continue to lift the 50-pound steel blocks off the conveyor.

Well thanks to the union lawyer and the union doctor, this Ford worker got a compensation payment. The reason that I wrote this to you was that Ford in his big newspaper ads costing plenty, brags about taking care of his workers. Well this company doctor fought for four hours to prevent an injured Ford worker getting a few dollars. That's how two-faced this guy Ford is.

FORD WORKER.

Hillman's Latest 'Shell Game' Angers Him

Allentown, N. J.

Workers Correspondence Dept.:

As to Sidney Hillman's latest scheme (Knudsen directed) to hamstring labor by his proposal to "re-organize the labor defense set up" by creating a hand-picked group of A. F. of L., C. I. O., and Brotherhood officials, whose function would be to prevent workers from striking in "defense" plants and to intervene in union-employer controversies over wages, etc. before a strike situation is reached. I have this to say as a worker:

As everybody nearly has become aware Hillman is the Judas of the American Labor movement. He has been hired exclusively for the job of betraying labor from the inside. The Roosevelt-Wall Street Administration is engaged in a double front imperialist war with its imperialist ally, the British Government. One front is directed against the Axis imperialistic powers—the imperialistic bandit rivals of the Anglo-American big monopoly pirates. The other front of attack in this undeclared but active war, is American labor.

Imperialist war is for imperialist profits in every direction, hence on the domestic side we have a war to reduce our already coolie wages. For the less wages, the more profit. There is no identity of interests between labor and capital. Hillman has been hired to deceive labor to believe that there is an identity of interests, and that labor must "sacrifice," which means to accept less wages, not to demand decent wages, to accept longer hours and more speed up.

32 MILLION GUILLETS

In other words, sacrifice its wages only so that the big monopoly kings, who already have a stranglehold on the guillets of over 32 million starved bellies, can increase this stranglehold and make unlimited profits under a fake "national defense" shell-game.

Labor wants to live, to live decently, it wants adequate wages. Capital wants the very opposite, less wages and more profits. If one wins the other loses. There is nothing in common between the interest of labor and capital. The interest of one is against the interest of the other.

Hillman has been hired by Roosevelt to deceive labor. Hillman has had ability for this job for never had he permitted democracy to rule in his own union.

TEXTILE WORKER.

Workers Correspondence

From Factories, Farms, Mines, Mills and Office



Ann Arbor Open Shops Ban Jobs for Negroes

Ann Arbor, Mich.

Workers Correspondence Department:

To most people the mention of Ann Arbor, Michigan, brings to the mind the University of Michigan, football and Tom Harmon. But for the majority of the people in and around Ann Arbor who work in the factories, shops, and offices, Ann Arbor is a tough place to earn a decent living for themselves and their families.

Ann Arbor's industries are, King-Seely Corp. which makes instruments and gauges, Hoover Ball produces balls and bearings, American Broach manufactures broaches and Fram Corp. makes oil filters. Unionization activities is starting in all these plants. The average wage in the entire auto industry is 73 cents an hour, gained through activities of the UAW-CIO, but at King-Seely, which advertises its "high wages" the pay is only 63 cents an hour after two raises, while Fram Corp. pays less than 50 cents and International Industries starts at 40 cents without any assured increase.

NEGROES BARRED

Meanwhile the Ann Arbor industrial workers and their families have to meet the second highest cost of living in the United States and find that rent, clothing and food (especially butter, meat and eggs) are continuing to soar out of reach of his wages which remain low.

But the Ann Arbor worker's security for himself and his family is threatened by more than the rising cost of living. New conveyors have resulted in layoffs, part-time work and speed-up at Fram Corp.; International



is laying off many employees, while the largest layoffs, involving several hundred workers, are expected at King, Seely in February. Thus a working in the cartridge department at Fram is employed only three weeks a month, and has to support a family on \$14 a week. All these open shop conditions are stimulating the workers to join the union.

If you are one of the thousands of Negroes in this county, rank discrimination faces you at every employment office in this non-union town, and the possibility of getting a job in local industry is practically zero. Three of the largest plants, Fram, King-Seely, and International, employ a total of one Negro, and only as a janitor. Only unionism and the policy of the CIO will change this practice of discrimination.

A. A.

Debts and More Debts, Is Plight of Farmers

Balfour, N. D.

Workers Correspondence Department:

This capitalist system is sure some system for the working people. Under it how can the small farmer rehabilitate himself? Just take the following case for example:

A farmer here has a quarter section of land, (160) acres. There is a mortgage on it for \$2,300, made in 1929. In 1930 he paid \$110 in interest and another \$110 in 1931. He simply has been unable to pay any more. Then there is a second mortgage on this farm of \$1,000, also at five per cent interest. No payment made on this.

Now comes tax arrears of \$446.00 on the farm and arrears in personal property taxes of \$69.13. The seed and feed loans amount to \$1,000 plus interest. How can the



farmer pay all this? It is impossible. His earnings from cream, grain, allotment, turkeys, chickens and cattle have averaged annually in eleven years \$647 when we include in this figure what he got in relief.

HE HAS AN ANSWER

He has paid in these eleven years \$200 on a tractor, \$240 on a binder, \$95 on a mower. It takes him \$70 a year for fuel; repairs on machinery cost him \$50 a year. There are six in the family. What luxuries can they have? Absolutely none. No chance for them under capitalism. And this is not an isolated case. There are thousands similar to it in the state.

What must we do? We must subscribe for and read the Daily and Sunday Worker and fight for socialism.

A. K.

A Local Union 'Comes to Life,' After a Lull

Akron, Ohio.

Workers Correspondence Dept.:

The entire membership of Goodrich Local No. 5 of the United Rubber Workers, the largest local in the rubber union at a regular meeting last Sunday went on record for the following demands in the new contract:

1—For the company to pay the difference between army and factory pay for all workers drafted under the conscription act.

2—For all time in the army to be considered as time employed in the shop with maintenance of all seniority rights and immediate restoration of job upon the conclusion of conscription service.

3—For the restoration of all seniority rights regardless of the length of the layoff period. The reason for this demand is that the present contract provides for expiration of seniority after two years of continuous unemployment in the shop. In past few months several workers have been rehired after a layoff of more than two years. Since these layoffs were not the fault of the workers, the union is demanding the complete restoration of their seniority rights.

The membership meeting also voted to enlarge the Legislative Committee and instructed this committee to get to work immediately in view of the important legislative problems facing the unions, such as the Roosevelt Administration War-Dictator measure.

With this improvement in the life of the union the membership is also beginning to pick up after more or less of a slump for some time.

S. B.

LOCAL 807 DRIVER

Minneapolis Local Smashes Red-Baiting

Minneapolis, Minn.

Workers Correspondence Dept.:

Despite of a campaign by the opposition on red-baiting, Negro-baiting and opposition to foreign born, the progressives in the militant Hotel and Restaurant Workers No. 665, A. F. of L. Minneapolis, won by a decisive majority in the recent elections.

The membership in their vote of three to one showed their understanding of the present day issues and repudiated any tendency towards an employer-dominated union.

NEGRO ELECTED

The opposition to the progressive leadership was built around a small clique promoted by the bosses who felt in the present war hysteria these issues could be used most effectively. In this respect they were helped by the Trotskyites in the labor movement.

In spite of the race-baiting a Negro running for Vice-President on the progressive slate was elected by the highest vote of all the candidates elected. The local learned a lesson in the fact that they cannot rest on laurels achieved in the past for the enemies of organized labor are always looking for opportunities to smash progressive organizations and continuously a work.

HOTEL WORKER.

Truck Driver Asks Officials Few Questions

New York City

Workers Correspondence Dept.:

I have seen that your paper carries stories of labor right from the working man on the job. Will you kindly put this in the pipe of the truckdrivers and let them smoke it. I'm sure it will make their blood boil like it did mine.

The cost of living is going up so fast that cops would give us tickets if we went at that speed. We know that the trusts are the ones who are cashing in. Truckdrivers (those who have jobs) get a fair wage for the backbreaking work, nerve-racking tension they are subjected to. Even at that, it was pretty tough to make both ends meet. But now, the wage-scale doesn't mean much because we have to spend more to eat and dress the family. So what does the International union officials advise?

The December issue of the official union magazine gives some advice on getting paid as per contract. A gent who signs himself "J. M. C." says that the driver who doesn't insist on getting the wage-scale has "a very weak backbone." These bosses have been away from the men and truck so long they don't know that delegates have all kinds of excuses too often for not enforcing the scale. Says Mr. J. M. C.: "If you are not receiving the scale tell your business agent about it right away. You won't lose your job, and any way, business is picking up and there will be plenty of other places where you may get work."

WANTS PROTECTION

He admits that a driver may lose his job when he tells his business agent that he is "under-the-bat" but don't worry, you'll get another one. Phony? And how? Who will pay the grocery bill in the meantime? What is the guarantee that business is picking up and there will be other jobs? What kind of a union delegate will help get a man fired or stand by when the brother member demands that contracts be enforced?

I say clean them all out if they don't stand by the men especially when the very bread and butter is taken from the membership. We need clean honest leaders who will not allow war and high prices out the legs under the laboring people.

In the Heart of Reaction:

Pontiac, Mich., Auto Workers Lead in Unionizing Town

Pontiac, Mich.

Workers Correspondence Department:

Pontiac, always a concentration point of the reactionary forces in Michigan, at one time the home of the Black Legion and center of the Klan—today is seeing the work-



ing class beginning to develop militant struggles for higher wages, better working conditions, housing, health and education. Leading this is the Pontiac local of the UAW-CIO numbering some 6,800 workers, which is right in step with other GM locals in Flint and Detroit and throughout the nation is demanding wage improvements and the end to speed up in the GM plants. It recently went on record unanimously to instruct its delegates to the forthcoming National GM Conference to support demands for a bona-fide shop steward system, a 10 cents per hour general wage increase, and full pay for draffees.

Nor are the wives of the Pontiac workers lagging behind their husbands in the plant. The Women's Auxiliary of the Pontiac local is organizing a campaign to bring down rents which have sky-rocketed and to get better housing and health conditions for their families.

COMPANY-OWNED HOMES
The bulk of the Pontiac workers' homes are owned by the General Motors Corporation. What homes they don't own outright, are held by other Morgan-DuPont interests—the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and Montgomery, Ward and Company.

Here is a classic example of what the auto workers are not getting out of the "war boom." While they have been working more steadily for the past three or four months—increasing the corporation's profits to \$127,000,

000 for the first 9 months of 1940, and the worker's wages have only been slightly raised.

The Corporation has been reaching both hands into the pockets and taking out \$10 to \$25 a month per family in rent increases, to say nothing of the rapidly rising cost of meat and other foodstuffs.

Already the women's committee on rent and housing has sent speakers to the plant meetings of the union, and have been given an enthusiastic reception. It is now out in the neighborhoods organizing the women and their families to bring rents down.

These developments in Pontiac show that the workers are beginning to throw off the influence of the Social Democratic union leaders bureaucracy which has sidetracked for years any attempt to better their conditions through militant struggle.

AUTO WORKER.

Musicians Say:

Everything Is Not Blue in Local 802

New York, N. Y.

Workers Correspondence Department:

The recent bi-annual election for officers of the Musicians' Union, Local 802, present an interesting parallel to the November national Presidential campaign.

While three slates were on the ballot, only one, the independent, offered a progressive platform. The other two, the Blue Ticket headed by Rosenberg and the so-called "Unity" ticket under Al Pearl, were the "Democratic and Republican" parties of the union. Neither offered a constructive solution to the problems of unemployment, kick-back, etc. Both relied for votes on their machines. Rosenberg, re-elected as president on the Blue Ticket made use of the standard forms of machine politics.

The main claim of the "Unity" ticket, reduced itself to merely a change in administration. The Independent slate polled 1,500 votes on a completely progressive platform which contained the following six points:

- 1) Eliminate the kick-back.
- 2) Curb the abuses of the monopolistic agencies.
- 3) Create opportunities for more jobs.
- 4) End the discrimination and abuses imposed upon our Negro musicians especially in Harlem.
- 5) Revise and extend union democracy.
- 6) Preserve and extend all government legislation favorable to labor.

STRONG PROTEST VOTE
Although the Third Party ticket in Local 802 is young and although the campaign was undertaken at a late date and with insufficient funds available, 21 per cent of the membership rallied. This effective protest vote is an indication that the general membership is alive to the problems and is willing to fight for a satisfactory solution. Undoubtedly with a longer campaign and with more extensive work which could be made possible by greater financial resources, a bigger hole could have been cut into the bureaucratic control now held by the "two old parties" existing administration.

No doubt it splits both the Blue Ticket and the "Unity" ticket to continue to disregard the demands of the membership for a progressive administration. No doubt they will continue to ignore the problems of unemployment and the effects of the international situation on the membership. Undoubtedly they choose to disregard the war and all its consequences in this country even as far as the union is concerned.

Certainly however, they can no longer disregard the progressive sentiment in the union which voted for the progressive slate.

The progressive forces in Local 802 must now make plans to extend their constructive influence. By working along this line from now on, they can become a major factor in Local 802 and can help return control of their union to the membership as a whole.

A. D.



(Farmers' dissatisfaction with mounting taxes is sometimes used by unscrupulous politicians to win support for lower taxes for utilities, banks and big business. With war profits now going up, farmers must fight to reverse the process: lower taxes for the farmers, higher taxes for the rich, and an increased budget for social welfare—Editor.)

THE GUIDE POST----

PROBABLY the most discussed topic in the executive offices of the nation's industrial concerns these days (aside from the ever-present talk about profits) is SPEED-UP.

All over the land, "efficiency" experts are standing with stop-watches in hand, timing the man at the point of production, planning ways and means of squeezing the final gasp of energy out of his already exhausted body.

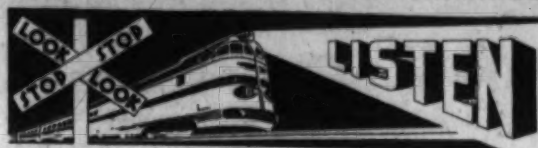
SPEED-UP gains insidious momentum in virtually every shop in the country: as the Roosevelt government and Wall Street put the heat on for ever greater quantities of manufactured goods destined for war purposes, "Labor" leaders of the Hochman type dig down into their social-democratic bag of tricks and bring forth an "efficiency" plan in the name of UNIONISM, a plan for SPEED-UP. Hillman, Wall Street's prototype of Downing Street's Ernst Bevin, screams for more "sacrifice" and production by labor. Knudsen bellows "work

harder!" Thus we have them, the pompous phonies, the trained "efficiency" experts, the industrialists, all joining in one well-trained chorus: SPEED-UP PRODUCTION!

Well, it's time for the workers to do a little talking about SPEED-UP in the columns of Workers Correspondence. And this is what we have in mind: don't let SPEED-UP be like Mark Twain's weather: "something everybody talks about, but nobody does anything about it." Let's talk about SPEED-UP in concrete terms, right from your shop. How it is being applied right at YOUR machine, YOUR assembly line, YOUR work-bench?

The best way to fight SPEED-UP is expose it! Enough exposures will cause the unions to fight harder against it. The more it is exposed, the more it will arouse workers in your shop and industry to fight it.

So let's have letters on SPEED-UP!



Weekly Column Devoted to Interests of Rail Labor

Whom Do They Represent— The Men or Management?

This column today is to deal with two opposing features of the growing movement of railroad labor for a raise in pay: the determination of the rank and file to secure wage increases and the efforts of the top union leaders to block this movement.

The program of the Central Committee of Shop Crafts in San Francisco calls for \$1.25 per hour for mechanics, 80 cents for mechanics' helpers, 70 cents for shop labor, and 60 cents for apprentices (to start); a 5-day week; time and one-half for Saturdays and holidays; and two weeks vacation with pay. It goes without saying that this program not only expresses the reasonable demands of the 300,000 railroad shopmen in the United States, but also of fully another 500,000 railroad men in the lower brackets.

"Double Standards" in Union Scales

As everyone knows, wages of railroad mechanics, helpers and laborers are from 50 per cent to 100 per cent lower than those received by the same types of workers in outside industries who are members of one and the same unions. There is an enormous gap between 85 cents and \$1.50 per hour—the former being the scale of railroad mechanics and the latter the scale of mechanics in most other industries.

Under these obsolete and indefensible wage scales with rising prices, higher rents and taxes, widespread speed-up and unrestrained profiteering, railroad labor's purchasing power is in the midst of a continuous shrinkage unequalled since the early days of the last World War. The Wall Street railroad owners are coining money, waxing war-rich and dividend-delighted. Under these conditions, the "real" wages of the railroaders leave us in the same situation as a man who has taken a 15 per cent wage cut. Just this milking of worker and public is what the Association of American Railroads means by "rational defense." And just the reverse of this is the program of railroad labor.

Move to Block Wage Movement

From every angle railroad workers are already feeling the ruinous effects of the war upon their living standards. Remembering their experiences in the last war, they are beginning to raise demands for wage increases, which throughout the country are daily being won by A. F. of L. and CIO unions in other industries. This is why the So. Pac. program for higher pay and equality of wages on the railroads with wages in other industries is supported by the Shop Crafts unions from coast to coast.

But such is not the case with the top leaders of these unions. Far from being genuinely in favor of a raise in pay and welcoming any movement of the membership whose purpose it is to improve working conditions on the railroads, they immediately proceed to block this movement and attempt to discredit those who have initiated it. Certain International Presidents have circulated their local unions discouraging any move for wage increases. We quote herewith two mealy-mouthed paragraphs from Circular No. 781, under date of Jan. 7, 1941, sent out over the country by B. M. Jewell, president of the Railway Employees' Department of the A. F. of L., to "All System Federation Officers, General Chairmen, and Field Staff":

"We find no fault with the hopes and aspirations of our membership to seek higher rates of pay and other improved working conditions; however, in such endeavors they should at all times conduct themselves in accordance with the laws of their organizations by handling such matters through regular channels instead of creating separate organizations for such purpose."

"In the meanwhile we would respectfully request and urge that the membership give their support and cooperation to the policy and program now under way by the Standard Organizations in seeking to obtain for the membership, 'vacations with pay.'"

A Few Questions

Brother Jewell & Co. suggest the membership use "regular channels" when initiating demands for "higher rates of pay and other improved working conditions." We believe in this policy—and so does every union man. But, when the So. Pac. shopmen in San Francisco initiated the above program through Local Shop Federation No. 7, did they not "conduct themselves in accordance with the laws of their organizations by handling such matters through regular channels?" And is the Central Committee of Shop Crafts, set up by these same unions, anything but a help to the "regular channels" in promoting their program? What have Brother Jewell and the International Presidents of the Shopmen's Unions ever done to initiate, agitate for and conduct a campaign to raise the wages of their 300,000 railroad members to the level in other industries? The answer, brothers, is what is called in theoretical physics—"absolute zero." Anyone reading Jewell's letter can readily see that so far as he is concerned, we are supposed to continue to thirst, hunger and pant for merely "vacations with pay." The much more urgent need, especially at this time, for an increase in wages is to be hushed up and shunted to a side-track. Is this the first step to compel the railroad workers to submit to the false "defense program," the no-wage-increase, and war-sacrifice policies of Green, Knudsen, Hillman and President Roosevelt? As in the last war, the AAR wants the railroad workers to go without wage increases, continue to be dumfounded and getting not a penny in the gold rush of the bankers now gouging the country. Who does Jewell & Co. represent—the men or the Wall Street railroad financiers?

An Old Formula

When any of the Grand Chiefs go to a bankers' banquet and talk of collaboration their speeches are inserted in their journal and we are supposed to be pleased they have "elevated" themselves into such elegant starch-front society. This fraternizing with our oppressors is okay and eminently respectable—in their eyes. But when a group of honest railroad union men, availing themselves of inherent natural and constitutional rights, band together to organize the membership to struggle for some gains, they shout "irregular," "unconstitutional," "conspiracy," "red plot," and after months and years of sitting on their swivel seats and writing everybody a warning against such proceedings. This formula is losing a lot of ground, for it's been used too often.

King Canute Lives Again

We've all heard the legend of King Canute who suffered from the daffy idea that because he was king he could issue a royal command that would stop the tide of the sea as it rolled into shore. It didn't work—and ever since King Canute has been a symbol of those who have an erroneous idea of their majesty and authority.

The King Canutes of the Railroad Labor Movement in 1941 fancy that with the wand of a few silly printed phrases and a regal, derisive "verboten," they can reverse the swelling, rising tidal wave of railroad workers' demands for long overdue wage increases in the poorest paid industry in the USA.

Through "regular" channels, yes; through federated action and cooperation of all unions and individual members who don't wait for year-maidens of the AAR to do their fighting for them, and with the aid and support of all other unions—CIO and AFL—1941 will be the year that 1,000,000 railroaders forged their solidarity that rolled over their union King Canutes who tried to stand in the way. In this fight let no "regular channel" remain unused—nor anyone in the railroad unions remain intimidated or silenced on our way to victory.

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Italians in Full Retreat, British Claim

Drive on Past Agordat Toward Keren; Italian Losses Heavy

CAIRO, Feb. 2 (UP).—Fascist forces tonight were reported in "full retreat" from Britain's four-pronged invasion of Italian East Africa after British forces captured the Eritrean railroad terminus of Agordat and "many hundreds of prisoners" in fierce battle.

The toll of Italian dead and wounded was said to have been heavy in fighting for Agordat, scene of two great Italian victories over the Derivates 50 years ago and gateway to Italy's Red Sea port of Massawa, 100 miles eastward. Great quantities of guns and mechanized transport were captured at Agordat and 11 Italian tanks were destroyed, the British middle East command reported.

Without pausing in the town, captured Saturday morning, British and Indian troops pushed on after the Italians fleeing toward Keren, 40 miles northeast along the main road to the Eritrean capital of Asmara, it was stated.

The Italians, it was believed, planned to make a stand in the 3,000-foot plateau around Keren in defense of Asmara which is 75 miles from Agordat.

Forty miles south of Agordat another claw of the British pincers was closing in on Barentu, drawing a steel ring about 15,000 to 17,000 Italian defenders whose only hope of escape is to fall back on Tole, 20 miles southeast, it was reported.

Another British force striking eastward along the Stett River on the boundary of Eritrea and Ethiopia has captured the town of Biadundi, today's British Middle East command communique said.

The British sweep into East Africa, from the Equator to the lower end of the Red Sea, already is halfway across Eritrea, threatening to cut Premier Benito Mussolini's colony in half.

Below the drive in the Agordat-Barentu area, British forces striking into Ethiopia from the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan were said in today's communique to be driving the Italians "in full retreat" along the Metemma-Gondar road above Lake Tana, 225 miles directly north of Addis Ababa.

CIO Demands Presented to Marshall Field

CHICAGO, Feb. 2 (FP).—Employees of streamlined Marshall Field's, the Midwest's swankiest department store, have streamlined themselves into Local 291 of the United Wholesale and Retail Employees (CIO) and have presented the store with a demand for recognition.

To make this historic step in Marshall Field labor relations more impressive, the union has filed with the labor board for certification as exclusive bargaining agent for large groups of Field employees.

CIO Here Signs Up Cosmetic Co.

The Chemical, Drug and Cosmetic Division of Local 12165 United Mine Workers of America, District 50, CIO, announced signing of agreement with blackstone Drug Products 300 Fourth Ave., New York City.

The contract running for a period of one year grants increases over \$3.00 per week, nine paid holidays, one week vacation with pay and a closed shop. The contract was signed by E. J. Blackstone for company and Samuel Machlis, field representative, Joe Zak, Mildred Brody and Dorothy Hachen, for the union.

DRAFTED UNIONISTS AT CAMP SAY, 'BOYS, LET'S STICK TOGETHER'

The following is a copy of a letter received by the Welfare Committee of the Fur Floor and Shipping Clerks Union, Local 125. The name of the worker is withheld but the authenticity is guaranteed by Ed Kainen, Chairman, Welfare Committee, Fur Floor and Shipping Clerks Union, Local 125, IFLWU, CIO.

Hello guys:

I would like to convey my feeling to you so that my experiences will further help to bind our strong ties and give a realization of the importance of the Town Hall Meeting, to be held Feb. 7 in Washington, sponsored by the American Youth Congress.

Firstly, I must say, and I believe the other fellows will express the same opinion, that the moment I entered the army, I felt as though all of my individual freedom, such as freedom of speech and individual characteristics, all which we hold

so dear and necessary for progress and security, being closed behind the iron door, and my mother and father both dazed and confused, standing out there, not knowing how they can take advantage of our democratic rights and use it to the fullest extent for the preservation of us guys.

The Friday which I entered the Army, will be a day I'll never forget. I must admit everything is working, with perfection. What I mean to say, is that in 24 hours, we had uniforms, equipment and all necessary articles used in combat.

The majority of the fellows fear expression of opinion, since the Articles of War were read to us. We were told not to think, but to take orders from now on. The feeling and atmosphere among the boys is that we are being swept into a torrent.

Up at Camp Upton, we spent the most miserable time. It was only

for five days and by the way, we are now on a pullman coach heading towards...

MEETS UNIONISTS

Many of the guys are afraid to write home the truth, fearing their letters may be misplaced. I'll try to get this letter off the train with the porter. We were promised much better food and conditions when we reach our new station.

I met a couple of guys who are trade union members and the saying down here is 'Boys, stick together.' Each guy is looking for his buddy. We were shipped out so fast that neither of us were able to see our parents to say goodbye. For all we know, it will be a long time before we will be able to see them again. Well, for myself, I feel fortunate to be able to have so many friends home.

I never had the opportunity to see how large America really is.

And let me say, boy, she's big enough for every American to live comfortably, rich with the Ohio coal mines, trucking farms, etc. I've noticed the sheds which people live in, near the railroad on the outskirts of the towns.

We have been very well taken care of on the train and we just had our first wholesome dinner.

I hope you guys use every means available and make that Town Hall Meeting the greatest and most democratic meeting of American youth this country has ever seen. None of the guys know of this affair, but it won't be long before they do.

I'll say "so long" and give my regards to all the fellows.

I sure miss those basketball games. Give my regards to the Coach and let me know if we beat Local No. 64.

Your friend,

Signed: L.

Phelps Dodge Strikers Win Main Demand

(Continued from Page 1)

deal with stewards of the CIO local and to work through the regular machinery of the union in ironing out grievances pending the plant poll.

While voting approval of the tentative agreement, the workers also approved the draft contract the union will submit to the company after the NLRB election. It calls for a union shop; a 40-hour, five-day week; time and a half for overtime and Saturdays; double time for Sundays and holidays; plant-wide seniority; no discrimination against Negro or foreign-born employees in layoffs, rehiring and promotions; and a regular grievance machinery.

The draft contract also calls for a raise for women employees in the plant, and a minimum of 65 cents starting rate for unskilled male workers.

All employees were to return to the plant tomorrow morning to resume work upon \$30,000,000 worth of government contracts, mostly consigned to the United States Navy. The plant also has orders for copper products with other "defense" plants throughout the country which are working on an estimated \$230,000,000 in war orders.

Bloor to Speak In Cleveland On Her Book

(Special to the Daily Worker)

CLEVELAND, Feb. 2.—Mother Ella Reeve Bloor, member of the National Committee of the Communist Party, will speak at two meetings in Cleveland about her autobiography, "We Are Many."

The meetings will be held Sunday, Feb. 9, at 2 P. M., at South Hall A, Public Auditorium and on Monday, Feb. 10, at 8 P. M., at the Ukrainian Labor Temple, 11th and Auburn Ave.

Mother Bloor mentions many happenings in the labor movement which took place in Cleveland in her popular book. During her 50 years of activity in the labor movement she made many friends in this city.

Prominent leaders in the trade unions, from the Negro people, women and youth will be present at the meetings to greet Mother Bloor. Admission to the meetings is 20 cents.



Picket Line Answers Company Stall: The Farm Equipment Workers Organizing Committee (FIOWOC) pickets the International Harvester Co. plant in Chicago. Company stalling on negotiations led to a strike of 6,500 workers Jan. 25. The FIOWOC's retort to the wall of "interfering with national defense" is to point to the company's plants in Germany and France, making munitions for Hitler.

Lenin Memorial In Springfield On Feb. 5

(Special to the Daily Worker)

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., Feb. 2.—The Communist Party of Springfield will hold a Lincoln-Lenin Memorial Rally Wednesday, Feb. 5, at 8:15 in the Hooker School Auditorium, Franklin St.

The main speaker will be Jack Green, New England Communist leader, who will speak against the Lend-Lease Bill.

William Sexton, a talented Negro singer of Boston, will contribute the musical program.

Paul Funt, Springfield leader of the Young Communist League, will be chairman of the meeting, and Daniel Boone Schirmer, secretary of the Communist Party of Springfield, will speak.

Blast at Gibraltar

GIBRALTAR, Feb. 2.—Six soldiers and a civilian were killed in an accidental explosion of blasting materials Friday on the northern front of this British fortress, military authorities announced today.

A number of others were wounded and stores and equipment damaged, the announcement said.

Penna. Moves to Push Relief Onto Counties

CIO Maps Out Organization Drive, Hits Philadelphia Employers for Maintaining Low Wage Scales

(Special to the Daily Worker)

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Feb. 2.—Suggesting a plan that would bring still more hardship and want to the people of this state, the Joint State Government Commission this week recommended that the administration of relief be turned over to the counties.

The State Commission further recommended to the Legislature that the Workers Alliance be "born of its authority to represent those on relief," and that the State, County and Municipal Workers, union of the Department of Assistance employees be not recognized as a bargaining agent.

The report demanded that at least 17 per cent of those now on relief be thrown off and comes on the heels of a constant drop in relief rolls by the most vicious drive against the unemployed of this state in the past eight years. It is part of the red-baiting, reactionary character of the present session of the state legislature which has already introduced in its lower house, a bill to outlaw all minority parties.

CIO MAPS OUT ORGANIZING DRIVE

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 2.—At a meeting called by Regional CIO director of Eastern Pennsylvania George Craig of all CIO affiliated union officials in this area for the purpose of mapping out a co-ordinated program to organize the many thousands of unorganized workers in Philadelphia, a central committee of CIO union officials was set up and charged with making a concentrated organizational drive.

In explaining the CIO position George Craig said: "The CIO will not permit reactionary employer groups now receiving millions in dollars in defense contracts to utilize the present period for the purpose of denying wage increases, collective bargaining and decent standards of employment to workers."

THREE TO DIRECT

Craig continued by citing the wage increases won by organization of CIO unions throughout the country.

He concluded by saying: "Philadelphia employers, however, are lagging behind the rest of the employers of the nation in granting increased wages to their employees which are vital to the health and well-being of workers, particularly those engaged in defense industries, due to the rising cost of living."

A committee of three headed by Craig was chosen to direct the work. The members of that committee are: Carl Bersing, president of the Philadelphia Industrial Union Council; Howard Kirsch, secretary of the Council; and Joseph Kline, vice-president of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers, Branch No. 1. The organizational committee will consist of 90 organizers in the biggest organizational drive since 1937.

Unseating of Senator Goes Into Courts

Washington State Groups Furious at Red-Baiting Senate Stand

By Ellen McGrath
(Special to the Daily Worker)

OLYMPIA, Wash., Feb. 2.—While old age pension union locals, labor unions and liberty-loving voters in Washington State peeped their senators with telegrams, letters and petitions denouncing the refusal to seat Senator Westman, court action was brought challenging constitutionality of the unprecedented ouster of a duly-elected official.

A suit filed in Thurston County Superior court sought injunctive relief to restore legal rights and a declaration on the status of Westman, elected by 1,200 majority and certified to the post by the Secretary of State as the duly elected senator from the 39th legislative district.

The Washington Commonwealth Federation set off a petition campaign to give expression to Washington voters, alarmed at the bold move against representative government.

"Twenty-seven state senators, exercising arbitrary power with the enthusiasm of storm troopers, told the voters who elected Senator Westman that representative government no longer exists in our commonwealth," the WCF said.

"Democracy has attacked. The time to fight is right now."

While the powerful machine of the Washington State legislature is steered by two arch-foes, Senators Joseph Drumheller and Earl Maxwell, the direct move against Senator Westman was carried out by two pseudo-liberals who jump whenever the Tory machine cracks the whip.

State Senator James T. Sullivan, former president of the Washington Old Age Pension Union, was the chore boy for the Tory clique in bringing charges against Westman.

DESERTED

Sullivan deserted the aged when victory for their Initiative 141, \$40.00 monthly pension was within grasp, and became a cog in the notorious reactionary state machine. He was ousted as head of the pension union as the aged became alarmed at his maneuvers to knife their pension measure which later passed by a majority of one hundred thousand.

Mrs. Mary Parquharson, who dons a new liberal mask with the changing seasons, took a lead in the floor fight to deny voters of the 39th legislative district a representative of their own choosing.

With bitter irony, the lady senator from King County had delivered a solemn lecture the night prior to ouster of Westman on preservation of civil liberties.

As one member of the pension union sardonically pointed out, Mrs. Parquharson supported their pension fight until the measure seemed assured of passage.

Then she joined with Senator Sullivan in a tirade against Communism among progressive groups.

Westman, a state vice president of the Old Age Pension Union, was ousted after he had admitted former membership in the Communist Party. He declared he shifted his affiliation to the Democratic Party in order to further his program of liberal legislation, he said.

State Senator P. Atkinson and Representative Wm. J. Pennock, president and secretary of the Pension union, flaily dubbed the Westman ouster as a "flank attack" on the \$40.00 pension measure.

The Drumheller-Maxwell clique control the powerful state machine built by Governor Martin and now steered by the "clean government" reactionary, Republican Arthur B. Langlie. But they pulled the wires ousting Westman from behind the scenes.

Two servile senators took the lead in blotting out representative government in a coup to harness the progressive state of Washington to the war machine.

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The Latest: Collar and cuffs of red and white striped shirting add a bright note to the suit of gray men's wear flannel shown at left. Vertical pleats conceal pockets in front of the jacket. Center: The cape with a waistcoat front swings to the hemline on this suit of cinnamon brown cashmere wool. At right: A designer shows pantaloons ruffles with a suit inspired by the 19th-century. The twill jacket, silk blouse with its high stock, and knee ruffles are bobs de rose. The skirt is blouse wool.

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1941

Labor's Leadership in The Fight for Peace

"Labor is the first group to do the fighting, the paying and the dying, and therefore labor has the right and the duty to take the leadership in stop war."

These words rang out yesterday in Washington, as the People's Peace Lobby gathered in the nation's capital. They had first been stated by the Labor Panel of the Working Conference for Peace, called by the American Peace Mobilization on Jan. 25—in advance of yesterday's demonstration.

Labor's rights and gains are in greater jeopardy than they have been for years, endangered by the Roosevelt administration's war-dictator bill and its total program for involvement in the conflict. The American trade union movement has the power—if it will exercise it—to prevent the United States from being entangled more and more fully in the war.

A peace committee in every local trade union in the country is something that can be created at once. With that can go the establishment of peace committees in every city central and state labor body.

If there is coupled with such measures, labor support on a larger scale for the American Peace Mobilization, the unions will begin to take that "leadership" in the fight for peace which their dearest interests require of them. Such is undoubtedly the duty of labor at this crucial hour.

Incredible Profits For a Few

From the hysterical headlines which the newspapers place over strike news these days, one would never know that American corporations are coining unbelievable profits out of "defense" orders.

U. S. Steel, for example, doubled its profits from \$50,000,000 in 1939 to \$102,000,000 in 1940. (One of Roosevelt's leading advisers on "defense" is Mr. E. Stettinius, recently head of U. S. Steel). Bethlehem Steel, labor-hating corporation, has good reason to bless the President's policies; it ran its profits up from \$24,000,000 in 1939 to \$48,000,000 in 1940, the highest in its history.

Similarly, all down the line, the Wall Street corporations (not the little business man) are reaping incredible profits out of what is supposed to be a "national emergency."

This "emergency" turns out to be a disguise for a riot of profiteering, and an attack against American labor. It is against these profiteers that Labor is striking for decent wages and better working conditions. Instead of the newspaper headlines which try to stab Labor in the back by insinuating "Defense Orders Held Up By Strike," the real news is American Families Held Up By Greed of War Profiteers.

In Dread of Spring

"Again Europe Dreads the Spring," writes Anne O'Hare McCormick in Friday's New York Times. The people, from the Shetland Islands and Norway's North Cape

to the smiling Mediterranean, fear the April that is so near.

"Hitler has made Europe dread the Spring," adds the Times' commentator in typical defense of Anglo-American imperialism. Yes, Hitler and Mussolini, Churchill and Roosevelt make the men, women and children of Europe look forward with a chill of apprehension to that time which Nature has made for laughter. There is blood in the skies of this April, the blood which will flow from the brigand war to redivide the world.

The imperialism that sits in Wall Street, and that exercises its power through the White House, is a chief partner in this plot to besmudge the Spring with blood and tears. Can America permit this? Does not every nerve and sinew of the people strain in the command to Washington to cease and desist from these war plans? "Get out and stay out of this war!" remains the clarion call of the people, which can rise higher during the weeks ahead.

Straight from the Shoulder

The designation of Richard Wright as the 1940 Spingarn Medal winner, will bring intense pride and satisfaction not only to the Negro people, but to all progressives and lovers of literature. The young Negro writer richly deserves it, for he possesses one of the great literary talents of the country.

"Native Son" and "Uncle Tom's Children," for which the award was made, hit straight from the shoulder in exposing the brutal oppression of the Negro and in placing the responsibility on capitalism where it belongs. Freedom from discrimination and exploitation, Wright's books said, lies in the unity of Negro and white in uncompromising struggle against the ruling class. The art of the way in which he told his stories mirrors the cultural genius of his people.

Wright's achievement could not be ignored by anyone. It won the attention of the entire American people. The award to him should be an encouragement to all artists, especially to the young generation of Negro writers, in militantly and realistically portraying the lives and aspirations of their people.

The Admirals And the Profiteers

It is revealing to look into the background of the new bill introduced by Representative Carl Vinson banning strikes and a closed shop in plants doing work for the Navy.

The Navy Department officials who are sponsoring this legislation in the name of "defense" are notorious for the assistance they have always given the shipyard owners in draining the public treasury.

An insight into how well they serve the companies is to be found in information which the Navy Department itself submitted to the House Appropriations Committee several months ago. It seems that six battle-ships, all practically identical, are now under construction, three in government-owned yards and three at private yards. The average cost of hull and machinery for each ship built in the government yards is \$41,000,000; the cost in the private yards is \$61,000,000—and wages costs are slightly lower in the private yards. Thus, with the cooperation of the Navy officials, these private yards are charging \$20,000,000 more per ship and paying less in wages.

Having provided employers with contracts at exorbitant cost to the public, the Navy officials now want to keep the workers from getting adequate wages. The Vinson Bill is made to order for profit-greedy open-shoppers as they seek a pretense for destroying the labor movement.

Bridgeport Negroes Angered at Holding Of Spell After Acquittal by Jury

(Continued from Page 1)

that Negro institution. Then he announced to the congregation that I was there and suggested that they might see me after church.

Among the score of persons with whom I spoke in the church was the Rev. Mr. Jacobs himself, a kindly and enlightened man. The jury, he said, rendered a verdict in accordance with the facts, although he noted, this is not the first time there have been such facts in a case involving a Negro man and a white woman.

"I feel sure," he said, "that in the South there are many scrubbing cases but that they never reach the courts because the Negro men involved are lynched even before they can be arrested."

An usher agreed with the suggestion that the cry "Rape!" sometimes not even involves illicit relations between a man and a woman.

"They know," he said, "that if they say they're being raped by a Negro they can get him, no matter what he did—even if he just wanted a little more wages."

"It was a clean verdict," a church officer said. "I'm glad it was a mixed jury. Those women couldn't be fooled by that Mrs. Strabing, could she through her?"

I felt, as did a number of others, that, although the verdict had been favorable to Spell, the

case itself had helped make it harder for Negro domestic workers, a number of whom had already been fired. He did not say so, but it is undoubtedly true also that the bosses of the "defense" industry in and around Bridgeport will try to use the case as an additional excuse for shutting out Negro labor.

"THEIR OWN LAWS" A number of men and women, gathered in a small room at the back of the church for Sunday school, was soon resolved into a lively discussion group, the reporter from the Daily Worker in the role of "prompter."

They unanimously resented the state's threat to "appeal" the jury's verdict of acquittal. After a brief discussion of the issue they agreed that if the law allows the state of Connecticut that right of appeal, it is a very strange law.

"It looks like they're just mad, now, and intend to get him any old way," one woman said. "They have their laws and they make us abide by them, but if the verdict isn't what they want, they try to get around their own laws."

The Sunday school group was unanimous also in their belief that somebody should advise Spell: not to carry out the intention, as ascribed to him by some newspapers, to go to Louisiana. If he is wise, they said, he will remain away from the South.

On my way to the jail, where I

hoped to see Spell, I questioned an uncounted number of Negro people respecting their views of the acquittal, what they thought of his still being held after having been found innocent of the state's charge, and whether they felt that many of the South's lynchings come from situations actually having nothing to do with "rape."

It occurred to me, contemplating their answers, that those of them who inclined to take a pessimistic view of the case even though Spell was acquitted would find "before long" that this verdict of not guilty was a victory of far-reaching consequences for all the Negro people.

Some of the Negro citizens of Bridgeport see that fact already. Their opinions in general sum up to about this: The jury's verdict was an honest one; the cry "Rape!" is often a subterfuge to cover up something else; they feel that it is (in the words of one man) "a dirty, underhanded trick" to hold Spell "while trying to cook up" another charge against him; they have no doubt that if such trials could be held in the South there would be many acquittals, but that, at present, even if a man could be brought to trial, the jury would probably be afraid to vote according to its honest convictions.

The jailer refused to allow me to see Spell, in spite of the fact that he is supposed now to be a free man.



Irish People Resolute for Neutrality Despite Churchill's Threats and Plots

DUBLIN, Eire (By Mail) (ICN).—The reaction of the Irish people to the threat by Churchill is comparable only to the movement which answered Lloyd George in the spring of 1918 when he decided to crush the rebel Republican spirit by conscripting Irishmen.

That threat had the effect of uniting the most irreconcilable elements—church, labor, nationalist and republican pledged the most resolute opposition and a general strike on the eve of conscription was one of the most complete known in the annals of labor. It became apparent even to the British Government that the effort to enforce conscription in Ireland in 1918 would cause a rising of the people by comparison with which 1916 would seem a mere trifle. The spirit of Connolly and Pearse and the other executed leaders of the heroic Easter Week rising had infected a whole population which, if it was forced to fight, preferred to do so in defense of its own rights.

Lloyd George did not carry out his threat of conscription, but it had been sufficient to unite the people as never before. The subsequent events of 1919 to 1921, culminating in the Treaty, bore no small relation to the original threat of conscription.

The Irish people had been pacified so often by rosy promises of what they would get after the war that when the war ended they set out to get it. Reaction, however, prevented the freedom of the entire country and the same forces which fomented the 1914 Curragh Mutiny (Lord Carson and Craigavon) were partially successful in their aims in 1921. Ireland was granted an emasculated Dominion Status for 26 counties, while six were still held as a British garrison and the most strategic ports of Southern Ireland continued to be occupied by the British.

The despair and poverty of the following years, however, soon had a result and in 1932 a wave of revolutionary feeling swept through the country and was canalized into support for de Valera who had opposed the 1921 Treaty.

De Valera promised bread, land, the Republic, but when in office he succeeded only in introducing certain social reforms, such as holidays with pay, the 48-hour week, better factory legislation and a minimum wage for farm laborers. His promise of the Republic

was carried out only to the extent of weakening the political ties with Britain by the abolition of the oath of allegiance and the office of Governor-General.

Land division was speeded up and the land annuities payable to Britain were withheld, with the result that six years of economic war were waged by Britain against the Irish people.

The agreement between de Valera and Chamberlain in 1938 ended this phase of the Irish question. The land annuities were liquidated by a payment of 10 million pounds and the ports were handed back to the de Valera Government, much against the wishes of Mr. Churchill who spoke of the "dark forces in Irish politics." The Irish people accepted this agreement as a step towards final liberation, but greatly resented Chamberlain's refusal to discuss the question of ending the partition of Ireland which was coming more than ever to the fore.

Inside the North-East of Ireland, ruled by Craigavon with British armed forces, and British money, there existed conditions which the British National Council of Civil Liberties described as being near totalitarianism. Here were storm troopers before Hitler broke his collar bone at Munich, and all the racial nonsense and religious bigotry of fascism. Craigavon's government had remained in power by abrogating the terms of the Government of Ireland Act, 1920, with the connivance of the British Government. Constituencies were gerrymandered so as to give a Nationalist majority area a smaller number of representatives than a numerically weaker Unionist area. These, however, said Chamberlain, were no matters for the British Government.

With this background of recent history, was it surprising that Ireland declared her neutrality when the second imperialist war broke out... and woe betide the Irish politician who would advocate a contrary policy. Even papers like The Irish Times had to admit this fact about Irish public opinion.

And now comes the suggestion to retake the Irish ports which were solemnly handed back in 1938. The answer of the Irish people recalls that great movement of 1918—Ireland is, if possible, more

united and more determined. The ports will be retaken only with the most bloody sacrifice of Irish and British lives, as is evident from the response of all sections of the Irish people at home and abroad.

From the United States come messages of solidarity as well as from the Irish in the Connolly Clubs in England; and from the home of Unionism itself, Queen's University (Belfast) students, by a two-to-one majority, reject the proposal that the ports be given back to Britain. De Valera has made the most unequivocal statement on the matter, which is a clear reflection of the temper of the people. Like other statesmen in Europe, however, he distrusts the mass of men and women in factory and farm, and is busily clamping down on their democratic rights.

These weaknesses of the de Valera Government are consistently exposed by the Irish Communist Party, which, at the same time, demands the withdrawal of Northern Ireland from the war. Despite intimidation and arrests, both North and South, it has continued its campaign for the preservation of Ireland's neutrality, the strengthening of the defense forces at the expense of the rich, and the development of the struggle to end the rule of imperialism in Ireland.

The Irish people will offer their friendship and aid to the British people in every possible way. They are aware of the great sacrifices and the sufferings of the common people in Britain. But they are not prepared to help a British Government which denies the elementary rights of democracy to the whole of Ireland and subsidizes a despotic regime there.

Because they see clearly the aims of the British ruling class in this war—namely, the preservation of its domination over one quarter of the human race—they call upon British democracy to help them to loosen the chains in Ireland, and in so doing to take a big step forward towards the overthrow of a Government which has brought nothing but disaster to the people.

Ireland will fight against the violation of her neutrality by either of the belligerents. It is up to the Labor and progressive movements here to see that the war is not spread, with disastrous results, to the very edge of their own shores.

by Ellis

Letters From Our Readers

'No Limit to Shamelessness Of Kept Press'

Brooklyn, N. Y.

Editor, Daily Worker:

I had just finished the Dean of Canterbury's stirring and informative "The Soviet Power," when I came across this sentiment in an article by Harold Calender in the Times' "Review of the Week." He is writing of the lifting of the "moral embargo" on the Soviet Union:

"It does not mean that the State Department has given Moscow a higher moral rating."

This, coming from a State Department noted for its shameful and brutal treatment of national and colonial peoples in Latin America (Cuba, Puerto Rico, Nicaragua, etc.). And the object of this condescension of a government that has solved forever its national and colonial question, and has aaaa leader Stalin, who, as Dean Johnson so aptly puts it, "... opened a new door for the nations and oppressed people of all lands, see in him their champion."

Truly, there is no limit to the shamelessness of the kept press!

B. M.

The Burning Issue

Of the Day

Editor, Daily Worker:

New York, N. Y.

Early in the pages of American history 1776 became the symbol of the birth of American independence and democracy. Now after 165 years of glorious and brilliant American achievement 1776 is again bidding for a place in our history. This time it is bill H. R. 1776!

Bill H. R. 1776 under the false flag of "an act to promote the defense of the United States" gives the President the power to actually nullify as his own discretion the Neutrality Act, the Johnson Act, the Wagner Act and any and all other legislation now on the Federal statute books; it confers upon him the power to commandeer and expropriate even without compensation goods, factories, homes and property of any kind; it gives him the power to regulate and regiment every man, woman and child in the country; it gives him the power to commit outright acts of war thereby compelling others to declare war on us.

The momentous, the burning question of the day is not aid to Britain, is not national defense, but is whether or not the will of the great mass of American people, you and I, who do not want to take part in the present European slaughter and who want to preserve our hitherto glorious American democracy are going to be hypnotized by false slogans, and promises, by a willful, powerful and selfish group of war-mongers into actual participation and involvement in the war and to the surrender of our democracy to a dictator.

B.

Specters That Haunt The Bankers—

New York, N. Y.

Editor, Daily Worker:

The American Banker, "the only daily banking newspaper," saw fit last week to recall some of Karl Marx's immortal words, the ones with which he began the Communist Manifesto: "A specter is haunting Europe."

Looking at the sea of faces that greeted the Third Term Inaugural of the President, the Banker found some unwelcome guests. Comparing 1932 with 1941, editorially the Banker says: "The difference is today we recognize the specters at the feast. ... There is the specter of class warfare. ... There is the specter of higher taxes and even confiscation of wealth. ... There is the specter of inflation. ... There is the specter of eventual difficult readjustment of our economy to a self-supporting peacetime procession."

The specters of peace and proletarian consciousness threaten the bankers. The class-conscious bankers of the world are uniting to strangle the people's demands for peace, for security, for socialism. But the proletarians of the world recall not only the words which begin the Communist Manifesto, but also its closing words: "You have nothing to lose but your chains, and a world to gain; proletarians of the world, unite!"

A. P.

Writer Says Culture of Free America Threatened by H. R. 1776

Staten Island, N. Y.

Editor, Daily Worker:

I believe any person in any way, no matter how small a "public character," must now fight for the things imperative to American democracy. I wish you would, if possible, include me among those who are actively vehemently opposed to the lease-and-bill.

As a writer, speaking to writers, I say that the culture of a free America is dead if this monstrous attempt to saddle the people with the burden of an unwieldy, unfruitful war is successful. As defenders of culture, writers everywhere should voice their disgust and horror that such a vicious bill should even receive monetary consideration by the people's representatives.

For five, yes for seven years, progressive writers have been fighting fascism, now fascism leers through our very windows. No matter how hard we have fought in the past, now we must call our last reserves of strength and fight, for if the abortively numbered (1776) bill passes, we, the writers, can stack our pens and bow our heads for whatever the new dictator, strutting across the world scene, deems a suitable period.

I wish you would, as I said above, quote me, include me in your protest message, or anything else which will help in the battle. WELLINGTON ROE.

A Lincoln Veteran Steals the Show

Staten Island, N. Y.

Editor, Daily Worker:

We had the opportunity of listening to a very unusual forum held on Staten Island this week. The topic was "America's Role in the War, From a Veteran's Viewpoint." The three speakers represented, respectively, the Jewish War Veterans of America, the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, and the American Legion.

The Jewish war veteran had never been abroad, never saw service. The American Legionnaire delivered a blustering impertinent speech which met with justified laughter. Quoting from the American Legion program, he said he stood for "deportation of Harry Bridges, rid the schools of Communists" and other such red-baiting nonsense which had nothing to do with the topic of the forum.

The Lincoln veteran stole the show, really exposed the war-mongers, and was enthusiastically applauded. Utilizing the experience of the I. B. in Spain, he very cleverly drove home a series of points that convinced 99 per cent of the audience that this was no war for America to get into.

We suggest that more of this type of forum be organized throughout the country. The Lincoln Veterans have plenty to tell the American people, and they should be given the opportunity to be heard, more often.

P. J.

They Won't Forget the Speech Dreiser Made

By Mike Quin

SAN FRANCISCO.

Well, I met Theodore Dreiser. It wasn't a very intimate meeting since some five or six hundred other people met him at the same time, and personal contacts on a mass scale like that are not exactly chummy. However, since he does not hesitate to bare the privacy of his mind in front of God and everybody, we all met him as satisfactorily as if we'd been sitting in his own kitchen.

As a general thing, distinguished men perform an intellectual strip-tease when they address audiences. They uncover their ideas with a great deal of ceremony, give you a quick peek here and there, and lead up to the final revelation only after slowly removing one protective garment after another. Thus when the audience gets a furtive glimpse of the naked truth, it has the illusion of being rare and unusual. They forget that, after all, the parts revealed are extremely common—standard equipment, in fact, of hundreds of millions.

The Truth Hurts

Dreiser comes stomping out mentally barefoot and stark naked. He says, "You want to see my mind? Hell, here it is. Have a look at it." This is kind of disturbing to people who prefer to see the truth through key-holes.

The truth is nothing new. Everybody knows the truth. But some people don't like to have it thrust in front of them. They don't like to look at it.

Everybody knows the truth, but everybody won't face it. They don't like it. So they look to great men for some "other" truth or some "better" truth. They don't like their own truth.

What's wrong with the world, they ask? They see a small wealthy class wallowing in excessive luxury. They see a few men owning all the industries and exploiting them for their personal gain. They see these men perverting democracy by the power of wealth, buying courts, buying legislators, buying newspapers, buying public officials, and ruling things to suit themselves without regard for anyone else. They see millions of workers unable to make ends meet in spite of the fact that their labor produces enough to satisfy the needs of all. They see millions more unemployed—denied the right to work and live. They see countless millions of oppressed people in colonial countries sweated for wages of a few cents a day while capitalists in other countries take for themselves all the wealth their labor produces. They see all these things and many more. They know all about them. Yet they ask: What's wrong with the world?

They want some other answer. They don't want the obvious answer because somehow they've got a foothold in this contemptible form of society and are enjoying some advantage from it. Such people were disappointed and stunned by Dreiser's talk because he just told them what they knew already, whereas, they came there hoping to hear some new and highly intellectual "truth" which might circumvent reality.

What Dreiser told them was that the capitalist system is rotten, that the present dirty mess would prevail until they got sense enough to

establish socialism, and that they were a "pack of goddam fools," for tolerating such a state of affairs. He told them just that bluntly and in that style of language. His delivery was so artless and ordinary that people's faces were flushed and their eyes glassy. They couldn't reject the plain truth he spoke and their brains could not move rapidly enough to create evasions and excuses.

It wasn't a speech in the ordinary sense of the word. It was an important piece of American history. Here was a man who had attained the highest place of any living American writer, speaking to his people in the greatest crisis of history. It was comparable only to Charlie Chaplin, the little music hall comedian who won the affection of the whole world, facing the people from the screen and begging them with tears in his eyes, please not to kill each other.

I only wish that Dreiser could have made that speech to a working class audience. It epitomized the raw truth which we all know and all agree on, but which we're inclined to forget in times like these. When I say "we" I mean all working people and honest intellectuals like Dreiser. I do not mean those people to whom the capitalist system is an advantage or who think it is to their advantage. Those people too recognize the truth when it is forcefully presented to them.

A few—but very few indeed—want a good world to live in more than the material advantages which capitalism affords them. These few cannot find intellectual nourishment or satisfaction in the mere gathering of wealth unto themselves or in the luxury of yachts and racing stables and high priced homes. Those few—and I said few indeed—would like to see a good society. The rest—and that's practically all of them—create fancy lies to evade the truth. They even hire clever writers to invent lies and try to convince themselves of them.

Lies That Mislead

If you'll go into any commercial book store you will find that three-fourths of the books on sale consist of elaborate efforts of the upper class to convince themselves of lies or pawn off their lies on the people. Such a process becomes easily a "other truth" that will place the blame for human misery on the miserable human—for cheating on the cheated—for hunger on the hungry—and the blame for mass murder on the dead who lie in their graves.

Dreiser doesn't belong to them. Dreiser belongs to us. He's the greatest living writer in America and he belongs to the working people. That makes the upper class sore as hell. Nothing makes a capitalist madder than the existence of something he can't buy with his money, confuse with his lies, or scare with his wrath.

Music of Latin America Over WNYC at 4:30

Excerpts from Saint-Saens' "Samson and Delilah," heard on the Golden Horseshoe Program over WQXR at 7 P. M. . . . Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto in D heard on WQXR at 8 P. M. . . . Music of Latin America on WNYC at 4:30. . . . George Burns and Gracie Allen over WEAF at 7:30. . . . Basin Street Chamber Music Society over WJZ at 9:35.

MORNING
9:15-WABC-American School of the Air, Story of the Circus Workers
9:30-WABC-Four Men in a Boat
WQXR-UP News
9:45-WJZ-Breakfast Club
9:55-WJZ-News
10:00-WABC-Edna MacLough, the Gospel Singer
10:15-WNYC-Edna MacLough, the Gospel Singer
10:30-WNYC-Chamber Music
10:45-WNYC-Edna MacLough, the Gospel Singer
11:00-WNYC-Edna MacLough, the Gospel Singer
11:15-WNYC-Edna MacLough, the Gospel Singer
11:30-WNYC-Edna MacLough, the Gospel Singer
AFTERNOON
12:00-WNYC-Midday Symphony, Dvorak Cello Concerto in B Minor
12:15-WNYC-UP News
12:30-WNYC-UP News
12:45-WNYC-UP News
1:00-WNYC-UP News
1:15-WNYC-UP News
1:30-WNYC-UP News
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American History Through the Eyes of the Coupon Clippers

'Land of Liberty' Joins Galaxy of Reactionary Films

By David Platt

Almost every popular screen star in Hollywood is represented in "Land of Liberty," a cavalcade of American history which could easily have been written by any member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, American Legion, Daughters of the Confederacy, House of Morgan.

The film consists of several hundred scenes taken from 112 motion pictures about the Puritan epoch, War of Independence, War of 1812, Mexican War, Slavery, Civil War, Reconstruction Period, Winning of the West and the conquest of the Indian, Rise of Industry, Spanish American War, Theodore Roosevelt, Gay White Way, World War, Fascism, Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the present.

It would take several large volumes to enumerate and analyze the historical errors and vicious lies which range from David Wark Griffith's conception of Reconstruction to Archibald MacLellan's version of the World War. Cecil B. DeMille, producer of "Northwest Mounted Police"—that singing rebus to Democracy, edited "Land of Liberty" and the film is now being presented as a statement of "faith in America" by the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors, Inc. Will Hays is President of this corporation of liars. When the film producers find it necessary to issue a manifesto America had better take warning.

"Land of Liberty" was originally put together for exhibition at the World's Fair. However, since it was first released, the producers have found it to be British imperialism more profitable than aid to American Democracy and have expressed their abhorrence of majority rule by turning out several hundred motion pictures like Ramparts We Watch and Arise My Love which favor the interventionists.

History a la Chamber of Commerce

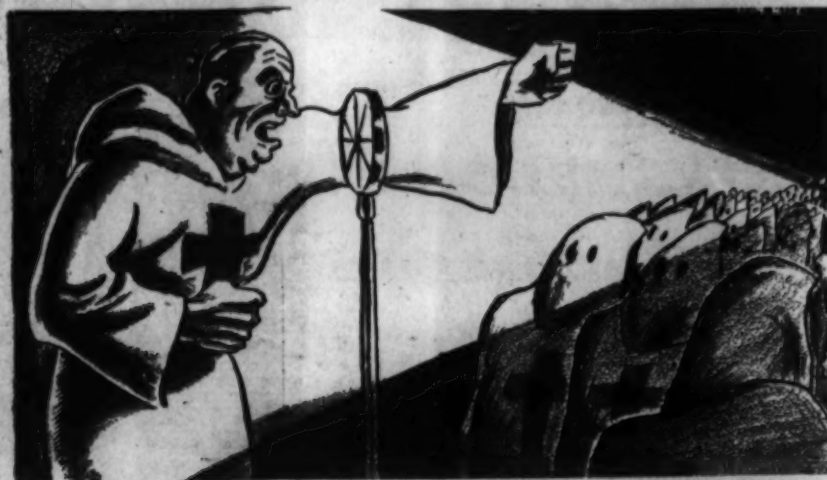
"Land of Liberty" is for the most part, standardized American history acceptable to the Chamber of Commerce mind. It contains certain individual sequences of striking power. There are impressive references to the early revolutionary wars against Britain which will not please Lord Halifax and Lord Stimson. There are powerful speeches by Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, James Madison and Abraham Lincoln. Particularly admirable are two scenes from DeMille's "Ramparts We Watch," one showing the British redcoats invading Washington in 1812 after the city has been betrayed by fifth columnists in Madison's cabinet. The other shows Andrew Jackson and his poorly equipped soldiers making a brave and victorious stand against the British crown at New Orleans. I don't know the name of the actor who played Jackson but he is great.

After 1812, the film takes history for a long ride. From here on "Land of Liberty" begins to resemble more and more a railroad magnate's account of the life and times of Cornelius Vanderbilt or some such plunderer of the nation's resources. The Mexican War and the ruthless acquisition of California is on a par with some of the editorials against present-day Mexico in the New York Daily News. Pro Southern films like "Virginia City," "Jesse James" and "So Red the Rose" are used to misrepresent the Civil War and the Reconstruction Period. The Negro people are depicted as crag-shooters and loafers in two or three nauseating clips. The Winning of the West is described (or so it seems) by army generals and licensed land pirates. Every Indian is a savage. There are two kinds of white men—the bad and the good. The bad men are small time bandits. The good men are those who assist the railroads and the banks in plundering on a big scale.

The Spanish American War—that imperialist war for colonies and loot in which six hundred thousand Filipinos lost their lives fighting for their independence is depicted as a "war of liberation." Theodore Roosevelt, whose presidential campaign was backed by two Morgan partners, who led him by the nose while the war was supposed to be "busting trusts," is presented as a "friend of the workman." That he was

Zina Alvers Makes New York Debut at Town Hall Tonight

Zina Alvers, Russian-born mezzo soprano, makes her New York debut in recital at Town Hall tonight. Her program will open with Ah! Mio Cor by Handel, and she will continue with several shorter numbers by Schubert, Brahms, Grieg and Wolf. The aria, O prete, de Bael, from Meyerbeer's "Le Prophete" closes the first half of her program. Two songs by Debussy, read two by the American Samuel Barber precede her final group of four numbers. Walter Tausig will accompany Miss Alvers.



The Spirit of the Ku-Klux-Klan pervades the sections of "Land of Liberty," which deals with the Civil War and Reconstruction. At right, Raymond Massey as Abraham Lincoln, delivers a speech which is one of the few individual sequences of power and democratic feeling.

an enemy of labor is shown by the way he aided the mine owners in the anthracite strike of 1902. "Land of Liberty" describes the World War as a war to save Democracy; and Franklin Delano Roosevelt as a "man of the people."

The outstanding heroes of "Land of Liberty" are Presidents who have betrayed the people—McKinley, Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt, army generals, members of the police force—the Texas Rangers, big business men like Diamond Jim Brady and Jim Fisk—multi-millionaire swindlers, etc.

The true hero—the common man who made this nation great—is ignored in this canvas. You will find this man in action in the minute of the revolution. He was the minute man at Lexington who fought the enemy within and without, the Oliver Twist as well as the hired hussies. He fought for the Bill of Rights to secure for himself and family some of the fruits of victory. He was with Jackson at New Orleans and later on supported the president in his fight against the bankers. He fought for the independence of Texas and when watched helplessly as the public domain from Texas to California was seized by the land-grabbers working with corrupt legislators and congressmen. He opposed Negro slavery and answered Lincoln's call for volunteers while J. P. Morgan was selling worthless ammunition to the government and piling up a huge fortune at the expense of the people. He built the railroads and saw them pass into the hands of

stock exchange speculators. Negro or white—he built the roads, paved the streets, strung up the wires, and mined the coal. Now he sees a vast land not of liberty but of insecurity where his liberty is to be unemployed and destitute, and to be pulled into a rich man's war.

This story of the common people cannot be found in Cecil DeMille's pseudo "Land of Liberty." Hollywood has too many ties to Wall Street to give us the World War as Eugene Debs saw it from inside the prison walls, or the Civil War from the viewpoint of the progressive Negro people. Hollywood has gone too far in the direction of U. S. Steel to give us the rise of American industry from the point of view of the worker who built it or the Abolitionist movement through the eyes of those who struggled for it. Here is the building of the Union Pacific from the point of view of the land pirates; the Reconstruction period as it looked to the Ku Klux Klan, the World War as seen by the tycoons of the Corn Exchange Bank.

"Land of Liberty" is emasculated American history. However there is a great deal of fine material in it and some day, someone with social vision will take these 112 films, re-edit them and with the aid of a scientific commentary, transform it into a genuine people's film. As it stands now, the net result of "Land of Liberty" for almost everyone but coupon clippers is absolute zero. The common man will learn little from it either about his past, present or future.

Radio Commentators Set New High in Red-Baiting

By Larry Lane

To be the right of even reactionary newspapers, is a neat trick, but it's a feat that some of the news commentators can perform with the greatest of ease. Take recent events in China. Many of the papers, although they have twisted the facts of the situation, have paid grudging tribute to the Chinese Communists. When it comes to the Far Eastern war, in most cases, their red-baiting, as yet, does not go to the extremes of certain commentators. But consider, WHN's mellifluous newscaster George Hamilton Combs, for example.

"Analyzing" developments in China the other night, Combs threw facts into the wastebasket, talked, not through the microphone but through his hat. He gave out with some mighty whoopers about Stalin and Hitler, combining to knife China," etcetera, etcetera.

It's getting so the average listener needs a slide rule, a compass, the 1940 American League batting averages, an encyclopedia, and the back files of the Law Journal to get beneath the mess of verbiage contained in stories on the ASCAP-BMI battle. But, pared down to factual bone, the latest news on the music war front is this:

Union-buster Thurman Arnold has dashed to the rescue of the big broadcasters. He's dug up one of those nifty examples of the "folk lore of capitalism," he used to write about BMI. The broadcasters' baby, has agreed to a government "consent decree" in which BMI and Co. a lot of incoherent promises which don't harm the radio monopolies basic position. In return, the Department of Justice will not take CBS, NBC and BMI to court.

Now, ASCAP has to sign a similar consent decree. If it doesn't, Arnold will prosecute ASCAP for "monopolistic practices." The joker is that if ASCAP did agree to such a decree, the broadcasters would win their fight hands down. For the provisions of this piece of legal sleight-of-hand applied to ASCAP, would emasculate that organization. It would virtually be destroyed.

No. 1. Wythe Williams: "Good



How People Pay The Cost of War Told in Pamphlet

How the people pay the costs of war in human lives, as well as in destruction of property and cultural values, is told in a new pamphlet, *War and the People*, by K. Pollard, price 10 cents, just announced for release by Workers Library Publishers. It is packed with a wealth of factual material which can be drawn on by students, writers, reporters, lecturers, and all progressives who are participating in the mass movement for peace.

Following is the table of contents:

The First World War—"A War Between the Slaveowners for a Redivision of the Slaves."
The Avalanche of War Is Set in Motion
The Sons, Husbands, Fathers and Brothers Who Did Not Come Back
The Invalids of the Imperialist Shambles
How the War Robbed the Working People
Women in War Factories
The Soldiers in the Rear
The War and the Middle Classes
Fifty-Two Million Destitute Towns and Villages are Deserted, Cemeteries Grow
Children Under the Blows of the Imperialist War
The War Cripples
Destruction
Who Pays for the War?
How the People of the Neutral Countries Were Hit by the War
"War is a Terrible Thing? Yes, But It Is a Terribly Profitable Thing."
A Hundred and Fifty Million Rescued From the War by the Proletarian Revolution
The Second Imperialist War Threatens to Ruin the Peoples.
The Working People Must Put an End to the Imperialist War.
The pamphlet will be on sale at all Workers and Progressive Bookshops. It can be ordered by mail from Workers Library Publishers, P.O. Box 148, Station D, N.Y.C.

David Nadien in Violin Recital At Town Hall

David Nadien 12-year-old violinist, is making his Town Hall debut, Tuesday evening. He will play a program consisting of six numbers: Ciaconna by Tomaso Vitti; Concerto in D minor and Polonaise in D major by Wieniawski; Bach's Sonata in G minor, No. 1 (for violin alone); Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso by Saint-Saens; and Nigun by Bloch. Lukas Foss will be at the piano.

Anna Antonades Plays In Recital Friday

Anna Antonades, the well-known Greek pianist, will be heard in recital at Town Hall, Friday evening, Feb. 7. The last half of her program will be devoted entirely to the music of Chopin, and during the first part, she will play the Bach-Busoni Organ Toccata in C major, Beethoven's "Appassionata," and Brahms Variations on a theme of Paganini.

Little Meat But Much Laughter on Broadway

By Ralph Warner

A week's lull in the theatre offers an opportunity to look backward and to note that our businessmen of Broadway have not made much headway in providing meaty entertainment. This is the season for laughter, they decided as long ago as last summer when it was apparent that the war would overshadow all other issues.

Casting a glance into the war time theatre of a quarter of a century ago they decided on comedy, comedy and more comedy. They also decided against mawkish "patriotic" plays.

It was therefore to have been expected that a comedy, "Arsenic and Old Lace" would romp off the season's first honors. That deftly constructed and brilliantly produced show is nothing much but entertainment, but it really does entertain. Bracketing it with "My Sister Eileen" the theatregoer is guaranteed two fine evenings of relaxation. Neither has anything to say beyond the most shadowy satire, but both are well worthy of your attention.

On the serious side "The Corn is Green" still remains the only play of this season which is convincing, with a theme which merits discussion. Placed in its historic setting of the 1880's, and in its historic scene, Wales, it offers an insight into the lives of the underpaid, exploited youthful coal miners of that time and place. Under scored by excellent acting of Richard Waring and Ethel Barrymore and aided by Herman Shumlin's realistic casting and direction, it offers a fine two and one-half hours in the theatre.

Two important playwrights of the contemporary theatre are about to drop in on us. S. N. Behrman's "The Valley Method" and Philip Barry's "Liberty Jones." The latter, a piece of flag waving, is a Theatre Guild Show. Both are due next week.

cess. Moss Hart doesn't enjoy his own work. Perhaps he'd like to blast out in a rip-roaring youthful satire, full of the joy of youthful rebellion against the commercialism and the sick-hatted smugness of the 44-40 theatre. It happens that despite the success of "The Man Who Came to Dinner," only one of the last four Kaufman and Hart plays have hit the bell. It is true that the authors' reputations, fine acting, super-productions, do draw audiences. But Hart's complete avoidance of serious thematic material, his twisting away from any contact with reality, the imprisonment of characters in an unreal world, a world untouched by the swirling issues of the time, is really frustration of a sort for a positive extraterrestrial personality. Perhaps that accounts for the Freudian substance of the current Hart piece, which, by the way, might have been better if George S. Kaufman had been around to collaborate with his partner.

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Gliere Dedicates New Opera to Chicago Symphony

MOSCOW (G.N.).—In a recent press interview the Soviet composer Gliere declared that he was now engaged on the score of a new opera, "Paris Commune."

Asked about his recent activities, he informed reporters that he had often visited the construction site of the great Ferghana Canal "where my compositions among others were performed before the builders of this wonderful project. Here I wrote the overture 'Ferghana Festival' for a symphony orchestra."

"In the overture," said Gliere, "I used Uzbek and Tajik folk melodies. The overture is completed, and I have dedicated it to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra which is an active propagandist of Soviet Music in America. I have now started to write the score of the opera 'Paris Commune.' The libretto for the opera is being written by A. T. Lurie and the poet S. Gorodetsky. In this opera in which we will portray the leading figures of the Commune a great part will be played by the women Communards. Louise Michel, who sacrificed everything in the name of the great idea of the Commune will be one of the central figures of the opera. To create the heroic figures of the Paris Commune whose experience enriched the revolution, is a great and absorbing task and all my thoughts are directed towards the fulfillment of this task."

Sh Yes . . . Fun, Isn't It?

The trade paper, Hollywood Reporter, has a flash about a brand new game in England. Here's the quote:

"Hot from London comes the newest game being played on the war front. Oel this: Four people sit in a room. They order 16 quarts of whiskey. They all drink the whiskey in equal quantities until it is consumed. Then one of the four leaves the room. And the remaining three try to decide—whether! . . . Can't you see them now? Thousands of East Enders bombed out of their slum homes, taking refuge in the subway tubes, no decent sanitary facilities, no room for rest, no food, nothing but a shelter from horror, and that given begrudgingly. But are they dejected? No. Do they ask for adequate, helpful protection . . . for Haldane air raid shelters? No.

They all go into the tube with four quarts of fine whiskey, gang up in fours and . . . Pardon me, I have a rendezvous with nausea.

Honestly, of course, Mr. Hart was looking for a vehicle for Gertrude Lawrence. And the tricky dream flashbacks of "Lady in the Dark," with the variations in characterization, gave Gertrude of Social Register (she is the wife of handsome, wealthy producer Richard Aldrich) an opportunity to do her variegated stuff.

This Gertrude does, and in a practical way, dancing, miming, acting, singing, revelling in a great role. Nevertheless, "Lady in the Dark" bores when it considers the editorial lady as a serious human being. You just can't be interested in her messy introspection. You know that she is neurotic not so much because of her failure to adjust herself sexually as because of her failure to enjoy her rapid parasitic work.

And that leads me to the hypothesis that perhaps for all his success

THE STAGE

"A MASTERPIECE"—Albion, N.Y. Times

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On The Score Board

Looking at Joe Louis The Athlete

By Lester Rodney

By the time a Monday comes around it's time to stop talking about a Friday night fight, and ordinarily we'd have stopped talking about Joe Louis' latest title defense by now. The day before the fight we discussed his career, and in the Sunday Worker yesterday described the fight itself at some length, going into Joe's tactics against Burman, and attempting to answer the always hopeful query some scribes pose every time a Louis opponent lasts more than 70 seconds... "Is Joe slipping... losing his punch?"

There's something else about Louis we'd like to mention today, one of those things that you look at all the time but never think about or relate properly until it comes right up and bites you after a long period of time, or until someone else with a fresh slant at the subject sees it right off the bat and mentions it to you.

"It" is simply looking at Joe Louis as an athlete. Which of course must sound a bit silly put just that way. It's looking, first, at the body and build of this great champion and getting a better clue to the scientifically applied power that accounts for those knockouts that come without wild, telegraphed punches or desperately swinging effort.

Louis weighed 203 pounds Friday night to Burman's 188. Yet it was Burman who looked like the "big man" in there. You have to really look twice at Joe's finely proportioned body to realize that here is a 200 pounder. He has sloping shoulders, deep chest, narrow waist and no superfluous fat anywhere. His muscles ripple rather than bulge. It's a body that reflects constant conditioning during seven years as a fighter, added to a naturally good physique. But don't forget that careful conditioning—and the rather unique (for most of us) opportunity Joe had of developing himself physically. There aren't many heavyweight champs.

And with all his fine natural physique, Joe Louis would look a lot different now at the age of 26 had he stayed on the wearing and wearying grind on the Ford Assembly Line.

Getting back to looking more closely at Louis as an athlete, we come to his magnificent co-ordination, his scientific concentration on the job at hand, and find the perfect athletic example of the body obeying the mind without any fraction of a second delay. Sports writers say Joe is "faster with his hands" than any other heavyweight ever was, because in any exchange of punches he'll land five to the other fighter's four or even three. They forget that a fighter is not just a machine, that the mind plans and directs the blows through the split second opening in the guard of a shifting, punching opponent. Certainly Joe "punches faster," but translated scientifically that means he has simply faster and more perfect co-ordination between mind and body.

A perfect example of that trait came in the third round of the Burman fight, when Joe slipped on the wet canvas in Red's corner while throwing a punch and fell across the middle strand of rope. The place was in an uproar and as Joe regained his feet and turned Burman was rushing in at him hoping that the fall would leave the champ flustered. Poor Red ran into a calm and deadly barrage of left and rights that rocked him and almost ended the fight right there.

If you've seen any of Louis' fights in the newscasts you've noticed that unless slow motion is used it's almost impossible to follow the flight of his key punches, the ones that knock the other fellow down or out. That's because they are delivered with such scientific speed and leverage, without the backwinding and long arc of lesser fighters' punches. Watch too, the darting left jab leap through the guard of the other fighter and snap his head back. That jab is a weapon that could probably win fights for Louis on points if he wanted to content himself with just outpointing a foe. As it is, it progressively weakens the recipient and softens him up not a little for the knockout.

One last point in looking at Louis more closely as an athlete. Jim Crow scribes were quick to leap upon the fact that his facial expression rarely changes in the ring as signifying that Joe was a deadpan animal type who never thought or laughed, etc. Anybody who's chatted with Louis after a fight or known him at all outside the ring knows that to be just a contemptible, conscious falsehood. Every boxing writer knows that Louis is quick, friendly, articulate and intelligent in the moments after a fight when a battery of writers are shooting all kinds of questions at him. Unusually so. He'll give the boys exactly what they want and need for the deadline with no aimless braggadocio, and with the same quick and thorough thinking that motivates his "fastest punching." And of course he'll relax and laugh and exchange badinage with writers. They all know that.

Watch Louis the athlete closely again and you'll see what that ring "deadpan" is. It's nothing more or less than the intent single-minded look of a man applying every fibre of his mental and physical being to the successful prosecution of the job at hand.

And how this great athlete does that job!

WHAT'S ON

What's On notices for the Daily and Sunday Worker are 25¢ per line (10 words to a line—2 lines minimum). DEADLINE: Daily at 12 Noon. For Sunday, 5 P.M. Friday.

Coming
SATURDAY, FEB. 20th THE NITE. Music's Bell, Manhattan Center, 2 Bands—Tuddy Powell and John Costa. Local 14, U.O.P.W.A. 8:30 P.M.

SCHOOL REGISTRATION
BALLOON DANCE lessons, class and private. Workers' rates. Registration only 50¢. Pallas Dance Group, 430 Sixth Ave. 1 night up. OR. 8-9864.
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PSAL Track Title Won by Clinton

De Witt Clinton High School today is the PSAL indoor track champion, following a victory at Madison Square Garden Saturday afternoon.

Frank Dixon, Monroe's Negro miler, won the mile in 4:33.7. Frank has done better, but he said that the lack of a pace-setter and the unusual banked track threw him off. Banned from practicing in the armories, competing under strange conditions with just one meet under their belts, the schoolboys couldn't come close to breaking any marks.

SPORTS

NEW YORK, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1941

OFF THE BACKBOARD:

Sorry, Nat, Got to Blow the Bugles For CCNY Again

Beavers Break Up Winning Combine to Fit in Two Crack Newcomers!—Underdogs Prep for Wednesday All Met Tilts

Recalling the fact that too much ballyhoo early in the year didn't help the CCNY five, it may seem unfair to Nat Holman to get out the trumpets again for them. So we'll do it mildly. For instance by submitting the fact that the second team City threw into the fray against Pratt Saturday night (60-39) was the score of the game) consisting of Goldstein, Monitto, Winograd, Fishman and Scheinkman, could probably go through a representative schedule very creditably, and with a couple of subs from the third team like Miller, Edwin and Judenfriend, would be my bet to knock over anything in the Ivy League, for instance.

Which, of course brings us to the new first team at City, and the undeniable fact that after a year or two, the Lavender is coming back to the top of the roost. Despite the five straight reeled off by the Beavers prior to the mid-term break, Holman unhesitating broke the old "Never change a winning combination" maxim by inserting not one, but two new men into the first team line-up Saturday night. One was Sam Deitchman, who had been slated for regular work before going ineligible last term. The other was a surprise entry, Sonny Herberberg from the JV's, turned eligible for varsity competition this term. Sonny is a Holman type ball player and fitted right in with the accelerated ball handling pace of the Beavers as they raced off to a 26-0 lead against the Pratt side defense.

Holtzman led the scoring with 15 points and the rest graded down the line of the three teams from Red Phillips' eight. The Beavers tried their hand at a harrying, all over the court defense for the first time to show that Holman is still overlooking no angle in the always developing and changing modern game.

LIU's first game without Bill King in four years saw Montclair State Teachers smothered at the Brooklyn gym 73-28. The visitors were too small to cope with the Blackbirds under the basket, and sophomore center Holub scored 19 points on rebounds and pivot shots. Beenders looked alive with 12 and Lobello and Cohen were hot on their set shots, making 15 and 10 points respectively.

The last unbeaten Big Ten team bit the dust Saturday night when Purdue beat Indiana 40-36 on the victor's court. The feeling is that Indiana will turn the tables in the return game and win the consolation again, however, unless a very fast coming Wisconsin team can stop them.

Yale dumped Princeton in the latter's Ivy League debut, 49-46 at New Haven.

The underdog St. Francis and Manhattan teams are making line-up changes for Wednesday night's games at the Garden against NYU and St. Johns. Pody Cooney has benched Carl Malfitano, who suffered from his own (Cooney's) over-touting as a set shot, and brought in Graham of the second team. NYU shouldn't have too much trouble rolling up a goodly total on the almost defenseless Franciscans. Manhattan figures to give St. Johns a stiffer tilt. In losing a close one to Brooklyn the Jaspers showed signs of the resurgence that their personnel indicates should be forthcoming. Nell Cahalan will start, an all senior team of Crist, Reynolds, Schwitzer, Thompson and Kravetz.

NOTE: The Virginia University team that suddenly popped up this year with a won 9 lost 1 record is composed of two boys from New York, one from Illinois, one from the State of Washington and one from Virginia.

Back for One More Beating From Jenkins



LOU AMBERS

Sad Story of Fighter Who 'Comes Back' After He's Through

When Lew Jenkins won Lou Ambers' lightweight title, he did something more than that. The Sweetwater, Texas, slugger ripped the faded Ambers apart, gave him a terrible beating and knocked out the once-shifty titleholder with a barrage of dynamite blows.

"Lou ought to quit now," observers said, remembering the alert, sharp fighter that had once come down from Herkimer, N. Y., to whip such champions as Tony Cansoneri and Henry Armstrong. Ambers, however, nursed his wounds in obscurity. Henry Armstrong, who had staged two terrific battles with Lou, made a last stand against Fritz Zivic, and quit—in time. Tony Cansoneri watches 'em fight today from the sidelines. But Lou Ambers, the fellow who absorbed a ferocious beating from Jenkins because he was dead game and wouldn't quit, is making one of those "comeback" matches, Feb. 28, in the Garden.

JENKINS AGAIN

His opponent? Jenkins—the same dynamic hitter who sent Lou to the cleaners the first time, and who figures to perform an even more devastating job this month.

Why is Ambers "coming back"? Does he really believe that he can stand off the murderous Texas puncher? There's little doubt that Ambers, an ex-champion, isn't kidding himself. He knows he isn't the fighter he used to be. But in back of Lou's mind there's the same old drive that has goaded such other past-peak performers as Benny Leonard, Armstrong, Cansoneri and John Henry Lewis to keep stepping into the ring.

"I can hang on for just one or two more fights. I'll mean another \$10,000 in the bank, that much more security for my family. I'll get by on my ring savvy. I know enough to hold off this young kid, even though he does hit hard."

That's what they say—and that's what some of them believe until they find themselves all alone, the once catlike reflexes deadened, the legs heavy, the old snap gone—all alone with a rough, hard-hitting

All the Heavyweights Want A Crack at Billy Conn Now

But the Good Ones Can't Get Him—Brothers Baer Returning to Action Against Nova, Galento—Burman Squawks

Everybody wants a crack at Billy Conn, but only Gus Dorazio, Bob Pastor, and Joe Louis are in line.

That's the plaint of heavyweights these days. With no Pittsburgh Billy to fight, they're doing the next best thing. They're taking on each other. Such fellows as Lou Nova, the brothers Baer, Red Burman, and Two-ton Tony Galento, back from his Jersey bar, are making faces at each other and perking up things in their division.

Thirty-one-year-old Maxie Baer probably will sign this week to fight Lou Nova, recent conqueror of Pat Comiskey. Nova kayaked Baer after absorbing some stiff right-hand wallop in their first encounter in 1939. If the match seems somewhat strange, remember that both boys would like a crack at Billy Conn. In the absence of such a chance, they're taking on each other to make a little cash. The bout will be staged indoors in the near future.

Red Burman would also like to fight Pittsburgh Billy, now that the Louis fight is past. He clamored for such an opportunity yesterday. The odds are very much against Mike Jacobs endangering Conn's record, however, with such a spoiler as Burman.

Gus Dorazio, and not Burman, will get a crack at Conn. After Joe Louis goes to work on Gus Feb. 17, what's left of Dorazio will meet Conn in Pittsburgh March 10. Gus is one fighter who hasn't earned the right to meet either Louis or Conn, but he has matches with both the principals in this summer's big title bout because, unlike Nova or Burman, he represents no threat to the brilliant-boxing, but light-hitting Billy. And he's fighting Joe because the champion will give almost any contender a chance at his crown. Lou Nova could get a title bout, but he'd rather face Conn first.

Conn, who had not intended to fight before facing Louis this summer, may also take on Bob Pastor, whom he kayaked last year, in Chicago this April as a tuneup for the heavyweight title bout.

Tony Galento, missing from the headlines recently, makes a return appearance against Max's little brother, 250-pound Buddy Baer, sometime in March in the

Seton Hall Games Tonight

A full lineup of major league track stars will be on hand for tonight's Seton Hall meet in Jersey City. The meet will open a week in which the Penn A.C. will hold its games in Philadelphia Friday, and the Boston A.A. will stage its competition the next day.

Athletes like Greg Rice, Wally Mehl, Chuck Fenske, John Munksi, Jim Herbert, Don Lash, Campbell Kane, Al Blois, Barney Ewell, Fred Wolcott, Eulace Peacock and others will make tonight's meet one of the greatest of the season.

Louis, Armstrong, Conn, Jenkins at Golden Gate Tonight

Seven five-rounders make up tonight's amateur boxing tourney at Harlem's Golden Gate Arena.

Highlighting the program is the scheduled appearance of Joe Louis, Henry Armstrong, Ray Robinson, Fritz Zivic, Billy Conn, Lou Balica, Pat Comiskey, Lew Jenkins, Lou Ambers and other ring idols who will act as guest referees and officials.

Danny Cox, 1940 Golden Gloves-Diamond Belt heavy king takes on Mike Sarko, hard-hitting Bronx boy in the main event.

AAU Entry Blanks

Entry blanks for the eighth annual National high and prep schools indoor track championships at Madison Square Garden, New York, Saturday, February 22, are being sent out today by the A. A. U., from its National headquarters in the Woolworth Building, New York.

The Roundup:

Phelps, Grissom Sign, But Holdouts Grow; Wally Mehl Looks Like New Mile Champ

By BILL NEWTON

Babe (Blimp) Phelps, the Dodger's burly catcher, and Lee Grissom, left-handed hurler, have signed contracts. They're the latest additions to the fold among the New York clubs. Their signing merely highlights the fact that the big leagues have harvested a full-sized holdout crop this year.

You probably don't know too much about holdouts. If you read other sports pages. The latter have a way of burying holdout news, and emphasizing the signatures of comparatively unimportant rookies. This is particularly true in the case of the Yankees, who have signed just one regular, Charley Keller, thus far, largely because they're re-armed their four-straight champions with stiff salary cuts after one off-year. The Yanks have been signing a batch of rookies, but Ed Barrow has had meager success with the fellows who will have to carry the bulk of the burden in 1941: Joe DiMaggio, Joe Gordon, Tommy Henrich, Nill Dickey, Charley Ruffing, et al.

It's no wonder. In a year in which the future is clouded with threats of war and lowered living standards, ball players are determined to make their short-lived careers bring them as much security as they can possibly get from the owners. Yankee regulars who are "slow" in returning their contracts to the "benevolent" front office—or holdout Bill Lee, of the Cubs, who is objecting to a slash after having been the backbone of the pitching staff for several years—know what they're doing.

This would be a good time for the players to get together in a union, by the way, which could guarantee them decent standards and return of their jobs after serving a spell in the army.

LEONARD ON STOLEN BASES
Ty Cobb's proposal to broaden home plate in an effort to check the offensive in baseball has led to reverberations of agreement among baseball men who object to the dominance of the "lively ball." But Dutch Leonard, Senator's pitcher, points out a fact that's been largely ignored in the discussion on the passing of the stolen base, the hit and run, etc.

"People these days forget that outwitting of such trick deliveries as the splitter or the emery ball, and the withdrawal of balls from the game after they've been

slightly damaged, makes it easier for the pitcher to control and the catcher to handle the sphere." Leonard recently remarked, "It's no wonder stolen bases have taken a drop."

MEHL TAKES OVER
Wally Mehl's time of 4:13.6 for the Wanamaker mile may not have been up to Charley Fenske's 4:07.8 last year, but it was enough to give the former Wisconsin distance ace a thrilling victory in the Millrose games at Madison Square Garden Saturday.

Mehl just eased in ahead of Les MacMillan, NYU Junior, after a thunderous last-lap sprint. Hot on MacMillan's heels were Charley Fenske and John Munksi. Four yards covered the first four runners. Unless Fenske wins a race soon, Mehl, his ex-teacher, gives signs of taking over his dominance.

Greg Rice, as usual, won the two-mile from Don Lash with a tremendous finishing sprint; Roy Cochran took the 800 from Jimmy Herbert, Negro star, and Harold Davis, Coast speedster, captured the 60-yard invitation in 8.2 seconds, a tenth of a second off the world record.

LITTLE LEFTY'S CARTOONIEWS

